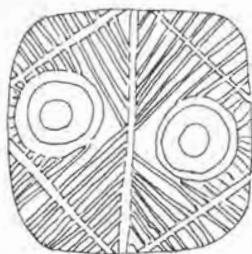


Series Archaeologica

Shua Amorai-Stark

Wolfe Family Collection  
of Near Eastern  
Prehistoric Stamp Seals



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*In memory of my father Joseph Amorai  
and my brother Nathan Amorai*

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## Acknowledgements

This study resulted from the cooperation between Mr. Lenny Wolfe and myself. During the Gulf War (1991) Mr. Wolfe had an idea to research a specific problem in Iron Age stamp seal glyptic. Since economic circumstances favored such an approach, he set about acquiring whatever material was available. Sometimes in order to acquire one Iron Age seal he had to purchase a whole collection. On other occasions he bought prehistoric seals thinking they were Iron Age pieces. One day while working on the publication of his Iron Age material he invited me to look at a particular group of seals. Rummaging in a drawer I came across an unsorted bag of prehistoric seals. Asking him what they were he dismissed them with a wave of the hand saying: "they are only prehistoric". I explained to him the importance of these prehistoric seals for research and asked if I could work on them.

The work on the Collection entailed a thorough analysis of the stones and a comparative typological study. I thank Professor Othmar Keel for his encouragement and comments and Professor Paul Figeras and Dr. Eli Borowski for their knowledgeable remarks on several stones. I thank Mrs. Nitzan Luz for initial testing of the stones and for measuring them. I am grateful to Dr. Amnon Rosenfeld and Dr. Shimon Ilani of the Geological Survey of Israel, Jerusalem for their thorough analysis of the items and pertinent comments.

I am grateful to Mr. Zvi Rebetz, a very good friend, for his most professional advice in bringing the publication to light and to his team for the valiant typing and scanning of the photographs.

All errors are mine.

Jerusalem, August 1997

Shua Amorai-Stark

## Abbreviations

<b>AMI</b>	Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Iran, Berlin
<b>Eretz-Israel</b>	Eretz-Israel, Archaeological, Historical and Geographical Studies, The Israel Exploration Society, Jerusalem
<b>Expedition</b>	Expedition. The University Museum Magazine of Archaeology/Anthropology, Philadelphia
<b>HR</b>	Homo Religiosus
<b>Iraq</b>	Iraq, The British School of Archaeology in Iraq, London
<b>Levant</b>	Journal of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, London
<b>MDP</b>	Mémoires de la délégation archéologique en Iran, Paris
<b>OBO</b>	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis, Freiburg
<b>OIC</b>	Oriental Institute Communications, Chicago
<b>OIP</b>	Oriental Institute Publications, Chicago
<b>OrNs</b>	Orientalia, Rome
<b>QAD</b>	Qadmoniot, Quarterly for the Antiquities of Eretz-Israel and Bible Lands, Jerusalem
<b>Paleorient</b>	Paleorient, Paris
<b>SEb</b>	Studi Eblaiti, Rome
<b>TTKY</b>	Turk Tarih Kurumu Yayınlarından, Ankara

# Introduction

The Wolfe Family Collection (WFC) has 474 ancient Near Eastern prehistoric stamp seals from the earliest late Aceramic Neolithic to early Bronze Age. A few pieces are compatible with Ninvite 5 or South Mesopotamian Early Dynastic period. The stones, most of which are unpublished, were purchased in the open market. Items Nos. 259, 287, 290, 291, 293, 336, 355, 359, 427 come from the Marcopoli Collection of Ancient Cylinder and Stamp Seals assembled in Syria.

Both the internal and comparative analyses of the WFC prehistoric stamp seals show that the large majority of the pieces do indeed originate from Syria, South-East Anatolia and North Mesopotamia and find their closest parallels in excavated examples from these areas. A smaller number of stones have affinities with stamp seals from present day Lebanon and Israel, while few pieces have closer affiliations with excavated stamp seals from Southern Mesopotamia and South-West Iran. Most of the WFC seals which show strong Southern features belong to the later prehistoric cultures, that is, to the early Uruk and especially to the later Uruk/"Jamdet-Nasr" periods, eras in which the connections between the North and South were very close. Thus, it is possible that some of the items in the WFC do originate in Western, North-East or Southern Iran and come from such sites (or their horizon) as Tepe Giyan, Tepe Hissar or Tepe Sialk or even from Susiana or Southern Mesopotamia. However, "given... the tendency of seals to ...., travel far from their place of origin" (Buchanan 1981:X) and given the close cultural connections between the North and South during the middle of the 4th millennium and first half of the 3rd millennium it is conceivable that even most of the Southern looking seals in the WFC were found in Northern sites.

Thus, when on internal grounds (that is shape, size, material, technique, motif, motif treatment and layout) the analysis indicates that a seal in the WFC is of a type occurring both in the North and the South (for example North Mesopotamia and Susiana), the working hypothesis is to classify the piece as a Northern stamp seal, but to mention also the possible Southern affiliation and origin of the piece at the end or in brackets. The number of purely Southern items in the catalogue is very small. For maps showing sites referred to in the catalogue cf. Stettegast 1986: 224, 252, 258; Von Wickede 1990: map at end of book; Collon 1993: 10.

The items in the catalogue are divided into early prehistoric and later prehistoric stamp seals. The sub-groups are arranged first by shape and then by motif. For various classifications of shapes cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: xii-xviii, figs. 1-30 (English); Homes-Fredricq 1970: 11-15 (French); Von Wickede 1990: 10-20, Abbs. 1-5 (German). The seals are placed at their earliest possible date, and the range of possible dating is indicated. The chronological sequence in Syria and North Mesopotamia is quite established. However, the dating of each period and its timespan is still problematic, especially in regard to the earliest prehistoric periods. Cf. Buchanan 1981: 5; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: 1; Stettegast 1986: 226; Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 1; Keel-Leu 1991: 8; Doumet 1992: 103 and for the later prehistoric eras and early historic periods cf. especially Teissier 1984: 409-10; Collon 1993: 7. In stating the timespan of each period we follow Von Wickede's (1990: Tab. 1) general guidelines. Of course, the dates suggested are approximate. (The B.C. abbreviation is often omitted). We also make general use of Von Wickede's classification of the compositional layout of the seals' designs (cf. *ibid.*: Abbs. 7-12, Tab. 4).

In stating the dimensions of each piece we first give the width and then the length of base and lastly the height. Perforation dimensions refer first to the actual width and then to the height of hole. When the hole is preceded by a cut the combined dimensions of cut and hole are also given.

Photographs are by Z. Radovan. Nos. 445(2), 449(1-6), 454(3), 455(1), 456(2), 457(2), 458(1), 459(1), 461(1,2), 462 (1,2,3), 463, 464(1,2), 466(1,2), 467(1), 471(2), 473(1) are by Zvi Remetz and Shua Amorai-Stark.

## A. The Earliest Stamp Seals: Neolithic Seals, Later Aceramic and Ceramic Neolithic Seals (Amuq A, Hassuna-Samarra and/or Amuq B horizons, later 7th-6th millennium) to similar Early Chalcolithic Seals (Halaf period seals, first half of 5th millennium)

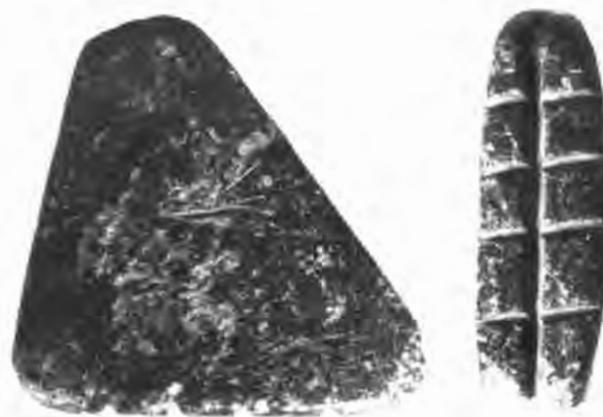
The earliest seals in the WFC can be attributed to the late Aceramic Neolithic period or the early Ceramic Neolithic period (Amuq A horizon). Significantly for a collection assembled mainly from Syria and its adjacent areas - their number in the collection is large. The earliest are of various conoidal-pyramidal shapes or handled seals and are decorated with simple criss-cross and linear base designs, deeply and fairly evenly cut with a simple implement. Until recently the typology of the earliest seals (including that of the Amuq A horizon seals) was not studied or mapped in detail. The problems were stated by Buchanan and Moorey 1984: 1: "Most belong to the Amuq A horizon ... in the earlier sixth millennium BC.... have a very wide distribution across south-east Turkey, Syria, northern Iraq, and deep into Iraq. But published evidence from excavations is still too sparse to permit useful comparisons or explicit descriptions of usage." Von Wicked 1990: 41-50; 72-77) brought together much recent material from such sites as Tell Judeideh, Ras Shamra V B, Tell Qaminas, Mersin, Tell Bourqas and Tell Ramad and his in-depth study of the typology of the earliest seals, as well as of the excavated glyptic material of later prehistoric cultures, contributes a great deal to research.

The number of seals from the next phase of development in the WFC is not much smaller. This phase is represented in Syria by the stamp seals of Amuq B horizon and in North Iraq by the Hassuna-Samarra glyptic from such sites as Yarimtepe I, Tell Hassuna, Tell Matarra and Tell as-Sauwan. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 78-92. For dating cf. Braidwood 1960: 47-55 (Amuq A, Neolithic period); Buchanan 1981: 5 ("early ceramic c. 5000"); Doumet 1992: 101 (Amuq A-B, pre-Halaf c. 5500); Von Wicked 1990: Tab.1 (Amuq A, beginning of Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq B=Hassuna-Samarra c. 6000-5200 BC).

Most of the WFC stamp seals from both these eras have parallels in excavated material. However, some show new combinations of shape and designs, others present known shapes in different sizes, while still others depict fresh variations of either shapes or layouts. Few seals represent transitory shapes between these very early glyptic periods and the later Halaf period. The WFC has only two zoomorphic depictions which may be dated to these early glyptic cultures (WFC Nos. 4, 51). If their dating is secure and they are not a product of the succeeding Halaf or early Ubaid periods, they are rare and valuable additions to the scant zoomorphic representations from the Ceramic Neolithic era.

### (A) Handled and close bodied seals

#### 1. Large conoidal-pyramidal shaped seals and close shapes



**Object:** mottled grey serpentine, 53x18x61mm. Irregular conoidal-pyramidal-celt shaped seal. Wide, irregular sub-triangular-shaped back; long ovoid base with rounded

corners, slightly chipped. Not perforated.

**Technique:** very deep linear groove cut with curved edged angular (flint) implement.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design. Central line crossed by four straight lines, forming two rows of five large squares and rectangles.

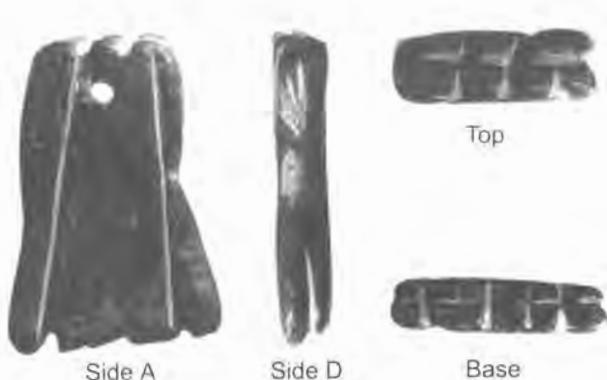
**Date/origin:** later 7th - early 6th millennium. End of Aceramic Neolithic or early Ceramic Neolithic periods, Later PPNC or Amuq A horizon, West or South Syria or North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the conoidal-pyramidal shape represents one of the most typical seal shapes of the earliest seals from late Aceramic Neolithic sites in Syria. Each of the three excavated examples is slightly different in shape from the other and from the shape of the present seal. All have in common with each other, as well as with our piece, a similar or identical large size, elongated ovoid bases and cut-tops with curved edges. The piece from Tell al-Kaum is, as our piece, unperforated. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 2 (irregular "plane group p4mm" design, Ras Shamra VC), 4 (zigzag base design, Tell Bourqas), 14 (concentric circles base design, Tell al-Kaum). Similarly shaped large seals continue to be produced in early Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A glyptic. Cf. ibid.: No. 25 (Mersin). Large irregular conoidal-

pyramidal seals are not known from excavated sites from strata later than Amuq A. The simple one line, two row grid criss-cross design on the base of the present piece forming uneven squares or rectangles (Von Wickede's "plane groups p2mm, p4mm", Abbs. 8, 9) occurs occasionally as base design in Aceramic Neolithic on bases of conoidal-pyramidal seals (cf. above). However, there it is cut in a less regular form and with more rows than on the present piece, which is a true plane criss-cross design. The "plane groups p2mm, p4mm" designs occur more frequently in Amuq A glyptic, both in its two rows form and in its four rows form. The two rows form of the "plane groups p2mm, p4mm" designs seem to be a peculiarity of Amuq A glyptic. However see below. In both forms, that is of two rows and four rows, the "plane group p2mm, p4mm" designs are especially common on Amuq A conoidal-pyramidal seals which are of the same large size or are shorter and/or smaller than the present seal. Cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 21 (similar regular deep cut, design of four rows, Ras Shamra), 22 (design of four rows, Tell Judeideh). On one of the smaller Amuq A pyramidal seals from Tell Judeideh the design is identical to that of our piece. Cf. *ibid.*: 245, No. 20 (the cut-top conoidal-pyramidal shape is probably a continuation from PPNB). Cf. also the similar two row design on the large conoidal-pyramidal seal from Mersin mentioned above. *Ibid.*: No. 25 (base design: central line crossed by four unparallel diagonal lines). The "plane groups p2mm, p4mm" designs in their four or more rows forms continue to be common also in later glyptic.

The size and shape of the present unperforated celt-shaped like seal, as well as its easy fitting in the hand, suggest a working utensil: celt, pounder or grinder. Similar, ground and polished but undecorated stone celts were found mainly in Amuq A levels, but occur also in earlier and later levels. For Amuq A examples cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 34:1, 2, 35:1, 97:2. An unclassified large broken stone object found in Amuq B phase may be a broken celt shaped seal. A "plane group p4mm" design of two rows - identical to that of our seal but of shallower cut - decorates its long ovoid base with rounded and angular corners. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 66:9. These authors (*ibid.*: 92) describe it as: "An object of unusual shape (which) may be a portion of the butt end of a broken celt. Whatever the reason for its shape, the object must have had some function, for all its surfaces are smoothly ground and well polished. In addition, one face is decorated with incised straight lines, which are lightly scored but sufficiently deep to produce an impression in clay like that of a stamp seal." The object seems to be a proper seal, probably of an earlier (Amuq A?) period.

The present seal can serve as an example of the close ties that existed towards the end of the Aceramic Neolithic period and/or early Ceramic Neolithic period between the stone cutters of working utensils and seal cutters. The piece may have originally been a celt transformed into a large seal after its working edges became abraded. However, it is more likely that it was manufactured as a large conoidal-pyramidal shaped seal, its shape influenced by current celts' shapes. For as stated above, its shape and lack of perforation are in line with some later Aceramic Neolithic seals while its base design - with Amuq A glyptic.



## 2

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 28x7x40mm. Thin, irregular sub-pyramidal shaped seal with rounded corners, pronounced concavity in center of narrow sides forming wide-open "v" shaped profile for these sides. Wide sides polished: side A - flat; side B - thinner near side cavity. Narrow sub-ovoid top with rounded corners; narrow, elongated sub-ovoid base with rounded corners. Comparatively small perforation (5mm.) in center near top on short axis. Slightly broken and chipped on side C.

**Technique:** very deep linear grooves on all sides cut with angular implement, with additional shallower linear cuts with same implement on base.

**Description:** side A (wide): converging vertical lines on left and right of perforation from top to base, directly or slightly indirectly continuing on-to base and top. Sides B, D (narrow): two vertical lines continuing central lines of base and top, not meeting. Concave centers left undecorated. Side D - short horizontal line in center of cavity. Side C (wide): one vertical line on side of perforation from top to base continuing top and base lines. One line on other side of perforation continuing top line, ending before concave center. Top: grid criss-cross design. One central line crossed by two lines, forming four squares and rectangles on one side of central line and three on its other side. Base: grid criss-cross design. One central line continued to sides B + D and crossed by three deeply cut lines with two shallower lines forming "crosses" in center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Amuq A horizon (or transitional period between Amuq A and Amuq B periods), North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** this seal seems to have two or three means of holding a cord: by its perforation hole; by its concave sides (B, D); by its top and base design lines and wide sides grooves. The seal has no exact parallel, a fact which is in line with the variety of shapes we encounter among early conoidal-pyramidal seals. No excavated example of a stone seal decorated on all sides is known from the Neolithic era, but see below WFC No. 327. However, various features of the present seal do find parallels among excavated material. For similar size, concave sides and overall shape, though different top and base designs, cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 4 (Tell Bouqras, later Aceramic Neolithic period); for concave sides, cut-top and top design cf. *ibid.*: No. 20 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A). For the frequent use in Amuq A glyptic of the combined "plane groups p2mm and

"p4mm" layout in its one row form cf. above WFC No. 1. The shallower cut of crosses on the "plane group p2mm" base design is a feature which occurs first, and then in a much more developed form than on the present seal, in Amuq B period, cf. *ibid.*: No. 30 (Tell Judeideh). For a similarly shaped polished stone object (although without the side cavities) with a groove across its wide sides, which may have been a working tool cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 35:5 (Amuq A, Tell Judeideh). The present object is comfortably held in human hand and may have originally been some kind of scraping tool reworked into a seal. However it is more likely that this piece was originally a "pebble" or flat stone slightly altered and shaped into a seal resembling a working tool.



3

**Object:** white limestone with patina, 25x22.5x41.5mm. Irregular, tall sub-conoidal-pyramidal back widening toward base, with curved corners and cut-top with curved edges, the whole back slightly tilted to one side; sub-rectangular base with rounded and angular corners. Large perforation (10mm.) in center on short axis. Slightly chipped base.

**Technique:** very deep linear grooves cut with blunt edged angular implement; very large perforation gradually narrowing toward center of hole from both sides, cut in circles.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design. Two vertical lines crossed by three horizontal lines forming large rectangles in outer rows and smaller, uneven squares and rectangles in central row.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic period, later Amuq A - early Amuq B horizons, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** most features of the present seal: size, shape, tilting back, curved cut-top, perforation technique, base decoration of deep linear angular cuts forming uneven squares and rectangles, that is a combination of "plane groups p2mm and p4mm" layouts, are characteristics of Amuq A glyptic. Cf. above WFC No. 1. For shape, tilting, perforation and deep linear base cut cf. especially Von Wickede 1990: No. 20 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A). A new pyramidal shape came into use during Amuq A phase which probably continued to be used

in the early Amuq B phase. Its characteristics are: a long square-like back above base which develops into a sub-pyramidal back and ends in a thinner, tall handle with sharp cut-top. Cf. *ibid.*: 85, Abb. 30.1, Tab. 3 (regular "plane group p4mm" base design, Tell Judeideh, Amuq A phase, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 37:4; Von Wickede suggests that this seal form may have belonged to peripheral and early Amuq B phase). The present seal with its slightly wider back below perforation, rounded back corners and cut-top seems like an example of the first step in the development of this new version of conoidal-pyramidal shaped seal. Square shaped bases with sharp corners and straight sides above base do not occur in Amuq A glyptic. They are a development of the transitional period between Amuq A and Amuq B periods. These bases occur sporadically in North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia Amuq B phase and are a common feature of North Iraq Hassuna-Samarra period glyptic. For this type of base shape decorated with "plane groups p2mm" (rectangular criss-cross grid), "c2mm" (diagonal, rhomboid criss-cross), and "p4mm" (square criss-cross grid) layouts cf. Von Wickede 1990: 91, Abb. 9, Nos. 29 (base shape, Tell Judeideh, Amuq B), 41-42, 47, 48 (Yarimtepe, Hassuna-Samarra period), 43 (Tell Hassuna, Hassuna-Samarra period), 52 (Tell es-Sawwan, Hassuna-Samarra period). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 88 (bought North Syria or Mesopotamia, Amuq A horizon); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 170, 171, 172; Buchanan 1981: No. 2 (tall truncated pyramid, similar base design, deep cut, technique and large perforation hole, Amuq A-B period). The present seal with its tall, curved corners back towering directly above a sub-square base with rounded and straight corners and curved edges and its combined "plane groups p2mm and p4mm" design belongs to the transitional period between Amuq A and Amuq B phases.



4

**Object:** mottled green-grey, cream flint, 26x10x33mm. Conoidal-pyramidal seal in shape of celt: thin back at base narrowing toward top, with two semi-facets on one wide back side, flat cut-top shaped conoid top with two narrow side facets near top, rounded back contours; flat ovoid top with rounded contours, flat lentoid base. Perforation (5mm.) near top, on long axis.

**Technique:** deep linear and curved cut with medium size angular drill and thin drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** long-necked animal standing to left, head turning back, four parallel legs of different lengths.

Small pointed ears or horns. Fish(?) above head, line below legs.

**Date/origin:** 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic period (Amuq A?) or probably Halaf period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape is typical of Ceramic Neolithic glyptic, cf. Von Wickede 1990: 254, Tab. 3, No. 25 (Tell Bouqras, Amuq A). However, all excavated Neolithic seals, including conoidal-pyramidal ones, are perforated on short axis. Long axis perforation appears in excavated material for the first time in the glyptic of the Halaf period. Then it occurs mainly on pearl shaped seals. Cf. ibid.: No. 181 (lentoid pearl, Arpatchiya, Halaf period). Conoidal or pyramidal seals perforated on long axis are very rare for all periods. For an early Ubaid pyramidal seal of similar size and shape with short axis perforation cf. ibid.: No. 228 (Ras al-'Amya'). The shape and size of this seal are very close to those of a celt shaped pendant from Amuq G, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 252:30 (perforated on short axis). The use of flint (Mohs 7) as this seal's material entails the use of either flint or of a harder stone or more likely metal (copper) as the engraving tool of its base design, perforation and polishing-grounding. Stones harder than Mohs 7 are not found or used in prehistoric or early historic periods. For the use of flint as seal material in 6th millennium glyptic cf. WFC No. 34. For the early use of copper at Çayaonü, Çatal Hüyük, Alikosh, Muhammed Jafar and Tell as-Sawwan see Mellart 1975: 52, 54, 65, 82, 105, 111, 113, 125, 127. For the use of lead and copper in the form of pendants and pins in Arpachiyah during the late Halaf period (ca. 4900?-4500? B.C.) (cf. ibid.: 166, note 166). For the use of metals in Southern Mesopotamia in the Early Ubaid period (ca. 4500-4200/4100 B.C.) and in Siyalk III in the form of pins with diamond-shaped heads (cf. ibid.: 178). A cast copper object appears in the late Ubaid period (ca. 4200 B.C.) (cf. ibid.: 179). Copper tools, such as hammered awls were found in Siyalk I,3 (cf. ibid.: 189). For the proportion of hard stone cylinder seals to that of soft stone cylinder seals and the use of metal engraving tools from the end of the 4th millennium (Uruk period) onwards in Mesopotamia cf. Gorelick/Gwinnett 1992: 1794-8702.

The motif of an individual animal represented in "point group 1" layout originates in the Aceramic Neolithic period and occurs throughout prehistoric glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede: 264, Abb. 7, No. 7 (round impression, animal with small ears, four legs of different lengths and linear filling motifs?, however, with head facing to left and wider body, Tell Bourqas, Aceramic Neolithic period). For a similar animal with elongated neck, however, in a different layout cf. ibid.: No. 83 (pendant, Yarimtepe III, Halaf period). The motif of an animal in "group point 1" layout turning its head is found in various engraving styles from the early Ubaid period until the Ninive 5 period. It may well have originated before the early Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 220 (carnelian lentoid pearl, Tepe Gawra, level XVII, early Ubaid), 408 (square impression, Arpatchiya, Gawra period); Homes-Frederiq 1970: fig. 134 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI, Uruk period), 280 (square impression, Ninive, Ubaid period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 253:8, 9 (gable seals, Amuq G).

## 2. Handled seals



### 5

**Object:** light to dark grey limestone, 32x18x36mm. Tall, conoidal stem handle in center of back. Handle with cut top. Handle continuing high, uneven, rounded sub-pyramidal back; elongated oval base. Large perforation (8mm.) below handle top on short axis. One third of base and one side of back broken.

**Technique:** very deep cut with angular edged implement; perforation technique as WFC No. 3.

**Description:** row of chevrons (present number of chevrons: five).

**Date/origin:** later 7th-first half of 6th millennium, late Aceramic Neolithic or Ceramic Neolithic, late PPNB or Amuq A, South Syria or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** "strip group p1m" layout of a row of angles or chevrons or other variations on the zigzag motif are the most common Aceramic Neolithic glyptic designs. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 4 (conoidal-pyramidal seal, identical base design, Tell Bourqas), 6 (gypsum impression, Tell Bourqas), 9, 11, 12, 13 (gypsum impressions, Tell al-Kaum). Zigzag designs continue to be used as seal decorations also in Amuq A glyptic, but less frequently. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 23 ("ear-handle seal, Wadi Hammam), 27 ("foot" seal-amulet, Tell Bourqas). The present seal's shape has no identical parallel among early excavated seals. However, a similar large "handle" occurs on a large seal-amulet from Tell Bourqas. Cf. ibid.: No. 5 (Aceramic Neolithic). The large, elongated ovoid base of the present seal does occur in later PPNB and Amuq A glyptic, but then especially as the base shape of conoidal-pyramidal seals with cut-top. Amuq A conoidal-pyramidal seals with an handle-like apex usually have a square or rectangular base. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Fig. 37.4. Large clay "seals" of similar or identical shape, either perforated or unperforated, and decorated with longitudinal zig-zag lines or chevrons were also found in South-East Europe in various sites at Early Neolithic levels. Cf. Maakay 1984: Nos. 54, 55 (Endrőd-Szujókereszt, Hungary), 76 (Grabovac-Vinograd), 165, 166 (Nea Nikomedia, Greece). For the connections between these pieces and Anatolian and Levant seals of the Neolithic period cf. ibid.: 72-84, 100; Von Wickede 1990: 70. None of these European pieces are of stone, and none present an identical chevron row to that decorating the present piece.



6

**Object:** black-greenish serpentine, 34x17x24mm. High "hour glass" shaped-seal with high, wide sub-loop-handle with narrowing top and sub-triangular top narrow side profile with rounded top. Handle narrowing at base (close to wide "hammer-handle"). Rounded, sloping back narrowing at top with conoidal narrow side profile. The whole looks like two conjoined sub-conoids, forming rounded edged angle side profile. Long oval base. Comparatively small perforation (6mm.) where back and handle meet, pierced on short axis.

**Technique:** very deep linear cut with wide implement with narrow angular edge on base and slightly shallower cut on back and handle; perforation in angle from two sides with thin ring in center of hole.

**Description:** handle: lines following shape of handle: four on each wide side of which two reach narrow sides. Back: row of four rounded semi-triangles above base on each wide side. Base: diagonal criss-cross design widely spaced, with central vertical line dividing field.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A or slightly earlier, Syria -South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** size and shape, as well as the deeply cut base linear design are common features of the earliest seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 4 (size, close shape and base shape, later Aceramic Neolithic, Tell Bourqas), 14 (size, later Aceramic Neolithic, Tell al-Kaum), 20 (similar shape, base design with dividing line, Tell Judeideh, Amuq A), 24 (size, base design without dividing line, Tell Qaminas, Amuq A), 25 (size, base shape, Mersin, Amuq A). For size and handle shape cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 9 (Amuq). WFC Nos. 47, 48, 49 look like miniature, more angular versions of this large seal's shape. When seen from its wide side this seal seems like a prototype of the much later and rounder reel shaped seals. The base design of the present seal is the same as WFC No. 20, however, cut much deeper. Cf. also WFC Nos. 18, 19. "Strip group p1m" layout with zigzags or diagonal lines on sides of dividing line occur already in Aceramic Neolithic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 8, No. 13 (impression, Tell al-Kaum). Combined with "plane group p2mm" they occur in Amuq A. Cf. ibid.: No. 20 (above). "Plane group c2mm" design of diagonal criss-cross (without dividing line) does not appear in Aceramic Neolithic glyptic, but is common in Amuq A pieces and even more so on later Ceramic Neolithic glyptic. Zigzags and triangles are common components of Aceramic Neolithic glyptic and are less frequent on Amuq A seals. The back decoration of the present seal finds a parallel in the edge decoration of the seal-amulet from Tell Ramad with its lavish triangular cuts (cf. ibid.: No. 28 [Amuq A]). The present seal's handle fits comfortably into a human

hand. The piece seems to have been manufactured with great care and thought for easy holding. Its lavish decoration and the care taken to fit it comfortably into the human hand suggest that the piece is an early example of a stamp seal manufactured for a high ranking personality or holder of high office, and/or for a specific cultic, official use or occasion. It is interesting to note that the nearest parallel, in shape and size, to the present stone piece is a large clay "pintaderas" from Sofia-Slatina, Bulgaria, dated to South-East European Early Neolithic. Cf. Maakay 1984: No. 234 (hour-glass shaped stamp seal with flat body...). The upper oval face shows two longitudinal zig-zag lines, the lower oval face bears parallel chevrons bordered by small dots. Diam. of lower face ca. 6 cms.). In its material, size, flatness, top and base decoration the Sofia piece differs from the present seal. However, in its overall shape and chevron motif it recalls the present piece. Maakay elaborates on the influence of Early and Middle Neolithic Anatolia clay "seal"-production and to a lesser degree of Syrian seal production influence on South-East Europe Early and Middle Neolithic "seal" production. Ibid.: 80-84. For the connections between the clay "pintaderas" and the earliest stone seals in the later Aceramic Neolithic, cf. Von Wickede 1990: 50-1, 70.



7

**Object:** light and darker grey-cream limestone, 41.5x23.5x18.5mm. Unevenly shaped seal with irregular lug-handle across back, handle starts from one edge of back above dihedral angle, and ends before other end of back; elongated, half-ovoid base with curved and straight base contours, two rounded corners and two slightly sharper corners. Elongated perforation (6x7mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with straight edged stone implement. Perforation wide in beginning of hole and slightly diagonal toward center with round and smaller inside hole.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design forming in center triangle built of small rhomboids, with lines extending to sides.

**Date/origin:** early 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the uneven shape, measurements, handle location on back and simple, clear, linear rhomboid criss-cross design of this seal are typical features of Amuq A horizon seals. The base design is a variant on Von Wickedes "point group 1" with the rhomboid criss-cross of "plane group c2mm" design. Both layouts are typical to Ceramic Neolithic in Syria and Anatolia. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 262, Abb. 7, 9, Tab. 4. The nearest parallels in excavated seals come from the Amuq A sites of Tell Judeideh, Tell Tayinat(?) and Tell Dahab. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 17 (shape, base design, Tell Judeideh, Amuq A period), 32 (shape, base design, Tell Tayinat(?), unstratified context, Second Mixed Range, Amuq A), 33 (broken, shape, base design, Tell Dahab, unstratified context, Second Mixed Range, Amuq A). For the diagonal criss-cross design without the continuous lines (Von Wickedes 1990: Abb. 9: "plane group c2mm" design) on an oval base seal with a pronounced lug- handle cf. ibid.: No. 15 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A). The perforation technique is also typical of Amuq A glyptic. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 20 (Tell Judeideh), 21 (Ras Shamra). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: Nos. 6 (base shape and size, attributed to Amuq, early ceramic phase), 9 (shape and size, attributed to Amuq).



8

**Object:** cream limestone, 37.5x24x12.5mm. Irregular low triangular sub-pyramidal back with rounded corners, back gradually raised from one edge to form curved top handle off back center; uneven ovoid base curved toward back. Perforation (5mm. wide) on short axis. Broken handle on perforation base.

**Technique:** linear cut with angular implement in various depths.

**Description:** central line crossed by many diagonal lines with few vertical lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for a seal with an identically shaped back and with very close, though more triangular shaped base and close base design cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 23 (Wadi Hammam, Amuq A). Base design is an early example of "strip group p112" (cf. ibid.: Abb. 8). For the same base design cf. WFC No. 9 below. For a close variation on the design and same cut technique cf. ibid.: Nos. 18-19 (Ras Shamra, Amuq A) and for a similar elongated base shape cf. ibid.: Nos. 15, 35 (Tell Judeideh).



9

**Object:** mottled brown serpentine, 26x21x11mm. Low sub-triangular, sub-pyramidal back, sub-ridge handle raised above one edge of back, sub-triangular base with rounded corners. Small perforation (4x5mm.) off back center, on narrow axis. Broken and chipped at two corners of base.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with angular edged implement.

**Description:** central line diagonally crossed by nine lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape almost identical to WFC No. 11 below and to Buchanan 1981: No. 6 (Amuq). For handled seals with a triangular base and small perforation hole cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 23 (Wadi Hammam, Amuq A), 37 (Tell Atchana, Ceramic Neolithic, unstratified context). For similar handle and handle position on back cf. ibid.: No. 38 (Tell Judeideh, Ceramic Neolithic, unstratified context). Design very close to WFC No. 8 above. For early seals of similar shape and size cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 169.4, 5, 170.5.



10

**Object:** dark brown-black serpentine, 25x24x15mm. Uneven, high, triangular back with rounded top triangular-shaped handle raised slightly off one edge of back ending before other edge of back; triangular base with rounded corners. Handle perforation (5x6mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular edged implement, perforation narrowing toward center of hole.

**Description:** two central lines with diagonal lines in opposite directions off them. Developed "leaf" design.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A. North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and design close to

above WFC No. 8 and shape to WFC No. 11. Base design is a typical example of "strip group p1m" layout. In its earliest variant, that is without the central lines, this decoration is the most common layout in later Aceramic Neolithic glyptic in Syria. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 262, Abb. 8, Nos. 4, 6 (Tell Bouqras), 9, 11, 12 (gypsum impressions, Tell al-Kaum). In this early period we also find the variant with two lines (cf. ibid. No. 13 [gypsum impression, Tell al-Kaum]) which appears in the Amuq A period combined with "strip group p112" design on a triangular base of handled seal. Cf. ibid. Abb. 8, No. 23 (Wadi Hammam). For similar shape and close design cf. also Delaporte 1920: Pl. 13, No. 5a-b (S.6) (two central lines with diagonal lines in same direction in three fields, "Archaic period").



11

**Object:** grey-black serpentine, 22x32x9mm. Low sub-triangular, rounded top sub-ridge- handle (almost irregular loop-handle) raised on one side of back, sub-triangular base with rounded corners. The whole close to wide-backed foot or boot-shaped seal. Handle top broken above perforation (6mm. wide) on short axis in antiquity, resulting probably from wear. Secondary perforation (4.5x5mm.) on base of higher part of handle, near higher edge of stone, also on short axis, pierced in antiquity.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular edged implement.

**Description:** triangle frame with two lines extending and two vertical lines within.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A, Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape almost identical to WFC No. 9 above and identical to Buchanan 1981: No. 6. The triangular base design of this seal is a variant of "point group 1" layout. It is especially close to the designs found on a handled seal of similar shape and an irregular ovoid base from Tell Judeideh; to the combined design found on a seal from Wadi Hammam with a similar base shape; to the base design cut on a foot-shaped seal-amulet with an ovoid base from Tell Bouqras, as well as to WFC No. 7. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 17, 23, 27 (Amuq A).



**Object:** dark brown, black serpentine, 19x15.5x10mm. Sub-pyramidal back with six back facets, sub-oval base with straight narrow sides with angular and rounded corners. Perforation (5x6mm.) off center, drilled on back on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with angular drill; wide perforation from both sides of back narrowing to smaller hole in center.

**Description:** five parallel lines crossed by rhomboid with central line.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A (or B), North-West Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and perforation technique close to Amuq A pyramidal seals. For similar seals with fewer back facets and an identical perforation technique cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 21 (Ras Shamra, Amuq A), 23 (Wadi Hammam, Amuq A). For similar linear "point group m" layouts cf. ibid.: Abb. 7, No. 23; WFC. Nos. 79 (rhomboid pendant), 127 (handled seal).



13

**Object:** black-dark grey serpentine, 21.5x14x16mm. Foot-shaped seal-amulet. High loop-handle near one side of conoidal-pyramidal back, sub-triangular base with angular corners and rounded long end. Small handle perforation (3.5mm.) near sloping back, on short axis. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular implement; perforation technique as WFC No. 3.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design, even, condensed spaced lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** foot-shaped seal-amulets are one of the earliest anthropomorphic seal-amulet shapes to appear in Neolithic glyptic. In Amuq A glyptic they are decorated on a flat base (cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 26 [Wadi Hammam], 27 [Tell Ramad]) where as in the Halaf period the design which is not of type "plane group c2mm" layout is usually cut on the wide side. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 154, 161 (Arpatchiya). The base of the above mentioned foot-shaped seal-amulet from Wadi Hammam is narrower than that of the present piece but its shape and size are almost identical to those of the present piece and its base decoration is identical to that of our piece. Cf. ibid.: No. 26. For an identically shaped base cf. ibid.: No. 34 (Tell Tayinat?). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 6 (base shape and design, and close shape, Amuq A); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 170.1,2,3 (similar shape), 172.4 (similar boot or foot-shaped seal). A boot or foot-shaped seal of similar shape and material, with criss-cross design on a long ovoid base

12



was found among mixed range material at Karum Kanish, Turkey, in 3rd-early 2nd millennium Level Ib. It is, however, dated by Özgüç to earlier levels and is probably of 6th millennium date. Cf. Özgüç 1968: Pl. XXXIX, 5a-b.



14

**Object:** dark-green-black serpentine, 30.5x16.5x17mm. Boot or foot-shaped seal-amulet. High, thin loop handle near one side of polished, thin, sloping back, elongated, triangular shaped ("leaf-shaped") base with rounded long end. Comparatively large handle perforation (4mm.) in center of handle. Broken and chipped on two base corners, back and handle.

**Technique:** deep, even and beautiful linear cut with angular implement; perforation technique as WFC No. 3.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design, even and condensed spaced lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium or slightly later, Ceramic Neolithic, Later Amuq A or early Amuq B, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 13 above. The thin, fine proportions and developed loop-handle make this seal-amulet a master piece of Ceramic Neolithic glyptic.



Wickede's 1990: Abb. 8: "strip group p1m" layout. Overall, this seal seems to embody, in an unmasterly way, some Amuq A glyptic features combined with the loop-handle characteristic of later Ceramic Neolithic glyptic. Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 169.2 (crossed-line design on boot or foot-shaped seal), 170.1 (loop-handled on one end),



16

**Object:** greenish-grey serpentine, 24x16.5x8.5mm. Lug handle with slanting top off center of back, "leaf or pear"-shaped base. Handle slightly broken above perforation (5mm. wide) on short axis. The whole close to foot-shaped seals.

**Technique:** deep cut with angular edged implement; fairly wide perforation from two sides, slightly dug into back, narrowing to smaller hole in center of "tunnel".

**Description:** central line on long axis. Female organ?

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A or later, Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the line dividing the base into two symmetrical parts together with the irregular base shape resemble a simplified, schematic and symbolic rendering of the vagina. The irregular base shape is similar to other irregular oval based Ceramic Neolithic seals. For similar base shaped seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 15, 16 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A), 35 (Tell Judeideh, Ceramic Neolithic era), 37 (Tell Atchana, Ceramic Neolithic era); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 172.4; Buchanan 1981: No. 6. The thin base of this seal and its perforation technique suggest a date in the later Ceramic Neolithic. Cf. also Gimbutas 1989: 99-100, Fig. 163.



15

**Object:** black-dark grey serpentine, 29.5x12x12mm. Uneven loop-handle off center of back; thin, long, uneven ovoid base, close to elongated triangle with rounded corners. Handle perforated (4mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut and shallow cut with angular edged implement.

**Description:** central line and few faint diagonal strokes from edges to center not reaching central line.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Late Amuq A or Amuq B, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the overall shape of this seal is similar to that of the wider based seal from Tell Tayinat(?), cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 34 (Neolithic, unstratified context). For an elongated ovoid base cf. ibid.: No. 26 (foot-shaped seal-amulet, Wadi Hammam, Amuq A). Its base design is an incomplete version of Von



17

**Object:** black-grey serpentine, 24.5x16x7mm. Irregular ovoid base with low rolled handle, higher on one side and not reaching other end of curved contour back. Handle top broken from wear or during manufacture. Comparatively large secondary perforation (6mm.) in center of original perforation (4mm. wide), through base.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular edged implement; original perforation from two sides, narrowing toward center of hole with stone circle in center of hole; secondary perforation from base to back, narrowing toward top.

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross design with uncrossed lines extending to edges.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A or slightly later, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and base design ("point group 1" layout) typical to Amuq A glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 1, Nos. 17 (Tell Judeideh), 19 (Ras Shamra). For base shape cf. also ibid.: No. 15 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A) and for overall shape and secondary perforation through base cf. ibid.: No. 35 (Tell Judeideh, Neolithic, unstratified context). For close type of base design cf. WFC No. 7.



18

**Object:** dark blue shining serpentine. 27x18x6mm. Large, irregular ovoid base with very low rolled projection-handle on rounded back, handle higher on one side of back and broken from wear or during manufacture. Ancient secondary perforation (4x4.5mm.) in center of broken handle perforation (3mm. wide), through base.

**Technique:** deep and fairly deep symmetrical linear cut with angular edged implement; secondary perforation dug from base to back, narrowing toward top.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design widely spaced, divided by two parallel lines into three fields.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, later Amuq A or Amuq B, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for secondary perforation through base on seals of similar shape cf. WFC Nos. 17, 161 and Von Wickede 1990: No. 29 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq B = Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 94, fig. 68:1: "Its ridge handle was broken in antiquity [perhaps in the making], and the seal was subsequently perforated from the center of the upper surface obliquely to the base.", Amuq B), 35 (identical shape and "egg-shaped" base with similar criss-cross design, Tell Judeideh, Neolithic glyptic from unstratified context = Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 329, fig. 192:2: found in Amuq G but "is most likely extrusive from an earlier phase [Phase A?]. For similar ovoid based seals with criss cross base design (without dividing lines) cf. especially Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 15 (lug handle on one side, Tell Judeideh, Amuq A), 37 (roll handle in center, Tell Sukas, Neolithic glyptic from unstratified context). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 3, 4 (Amuq A horizon); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 169.2, 172.1, 3; Buchanan 1981: No. 7 (smaller handle, grid criss-cross design, Amuq).



19

**Object:** blue-grey serpentine, 25x18x10mm. Curved top ridge-handle almost on full length of back, sub-rectangular base with very rounded corners (almost ovoid). Elongated handle perforation (5mm. wide) broken on top, pierced on short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular edged implement, shallower linear cut; perforation reaching back cut from two sides in similar technique to WFC No. 3.

**Description:** irregular diagonal criss-cross design widely spaced, divided by two parallel lines into three fields.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A or Amuq B, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** base design as WFC No. 18 above but less regular. For similar spacing and irregularity of design without dividing lines cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 16 ("ear"-handle on one side, Tell Judeideh, Amuq A), 18, 19 (similar handle, ovoid base, Ras Shamra, Amuq A); WFC No. 85. For shape cf. especially ibid.: 32 (Tell Tayinat?, Neolithic glyptic, unstratified context). For shape cf. also Buchanan 1981: Nos. 7, 8 (No. 8 - also for design, Amuq).



20

**Object:** black-blue serpentine, 20x17x8mm. Long, low ridge-handle on full length of thin, rectangular base with rounded corners. Small handle perforation (3.5x5mm.) on short axis. Broken on three sides of base. Much worn.

**Technique:** deep, even, rigid linear cut of two depths; perforation from both sides with thin, half circle stone in center of hole.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design with central vertical line dividing field.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq B, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia (North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** base design same as WFC No. 6 and close to WFC Nos. 18, 19 above, but more rigorous. One of the two Amuq B excavated seals has an identical shape and handle and the same "plane group c2mm" base design (but without the central dividing line which makes it close to "stripe group pmm2" layout). Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 8, 9, No. 29 (Tell Judeideh). "Stripe group pmm2" design with "plane group p2mm" decoration

on sides occurs already in Amuq A context. Cf. *Ibid.*: No. 20 (Tell Judeideh). The same ridge handle is found also on the other excavated Amuq B seal, as well as, on Ceramic Neolithic seals with round and ovoid bases. Cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 30 (Tell Judeideh), 32 (Tell Tayinat?), 44 (Yarimtepe). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 169.2 (similar handle); Buchanan 1981: Nos. 3 (identical shape and handle, "plane group p2mm" design, Amuq valley), 4 (same handle and "plane group c2mm" design, on thicker ovoid base).



21

**Object:** black-dark brown hematite, 20x16x6.5mm. Long handle, higher on one side, in center of back reaching back edge on one side, thin oval base (close to "tear-drop" shape). Perforated (2mm. wide) on short axis. Broken handle in center below top. Chipped base.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with thin implement not covering all base

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross design, widely spaced.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A or Amuq B, Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** oval based handled seals are rare after the Ceramic Neolithic period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Tab. 3, No. 177 (different handle, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period). The base design of this seal ("point group 1" layout) is a common design in Amuq A. However, in its faint, unrigid cut it is closer to later examples from the Halaf or Ubaid periods than to the Amuq cutting technique. But cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 27 (Tell Bouqras, Amuq A period), 46 (Tell Matarra, Hassuna-Samara period).



22

**Object:** dark grey-black serpentine, 21x18.5x8.5mm. Ridge handle in center of slightly sloping back with round side contours, fairly thick sub-rectangular base with rounded corners (almost ovoid). Perforated (4mm. wide) on short axis. Broken handle, chipped on one base corner.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with thin implement not covering all base.

**Description:** irregular linear design, sparsely spaced. Two central parallel lines crossed by diagonal line with additional irregular diagonal lines and strokes.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium (or first half of 5th millennium), Ceramic Neolithic (or early Chalcolithic), Amuq A or B (or Halaf period), Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 20 above; design similar to WFC No. 21 above.

### 3. Handled seals with notched bases



23

**Object:** brown-cream, yellowish limestone, 27.5x20x13mm. Uneven lug handle beginning in one side of back and ending before other end, thick, sloping pyramidal-like back; ovoid base with notch on each wide side forming "violin" or "flower" shaped base. Comparatively small perforation (4.5mm.) on short axis. Large break below higher side of handle through base.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular edged implement.

**Discussion:** diagonal criss-cross design forming rhomboids of various sizes.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A (or Amuq B), North-West-South Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for an identical shape and size and for a very similar shape cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 39-40 (Tell Sukas, Neolithic glyptic, unstratified context). For other early notched base pieces cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 28 (seal-amulet, Tell Judeideh, Amuq A), 31 (Tell Judeideh, Neolithic glyptic, unstratified context). The thick back and the handle position of this seal suggest a date in the earlier Ceramic Neolithic; while the fine "plane group c2mm" layout base design suggest a date in the later Ceramic Neolithic. Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 3 (similar shape, same base design, bought Aleppo), 4 (similar shape, bought Syria).



24

**Object:** dark green serpentine, 29x18x8.5mm. Wide, long (originally high) irregular handle beginning in one end of back, not reaching other side of back, low sloping and curved back grooved on long sides of handle, sub-rectangular base narrowing at one end, notch on each of four sides, forming

"semi-flower-shaped" or "stylized human-shaped" base. One base corner broken and one chipped. Handle broken below perforation, part of back and base and two base corners broken.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular edged implement.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A (or Amuq B), North-West-South Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 23 above. Base shape and technique of base notches same as a seal-amulet from Mersin. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 28 (Amuq A period).



25

**Object:** green-grey serpentine, 43.5x38x21.5mm. Lug handle turned to loop-handle beginning at one edge of irregular, thick back with one straight side, curved contours and slightly sloping; round base with smaller ovoid projection. Two notches formed in the connection of ovoid and circular base parts ("low necked vase" shaped base). Small handle perforation (3.5x4mm) on short axis. Broken between handle and back, chipped on ovoid part base.

**Technique:** deep, uneven cut of various widths with angular edged implement.

**Description:** irregular cruciform design. Asymmetrical angle-filled three-lined cross with short diagonal lines in quadrants. Diagonal line crossing half of field. On oval top: central cross lines continuing with two additional lines forming grid criss cross design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th-early 5th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A or Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra horizon, or transitional period between above and Halaf period, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** most attributes of this seal (that is: its large size, back shape, handle position on back, irregular-rounded, ovoid and notched base shape, and its

deep cut) are typical features of Ceramic Neolithic glyptic, particularly those associated with Amuq A Cf. above and especially WFC No. 23 (thick, notched base and handle) and Von Wickede 1990: No. 16 (close base shape, Tell Judeideh, Amuq A). However, an identical base shape to that of the present piece is unknown from excavations. The present seal's base shape with its two notches formed at the "top" recalls the engraved, curved face shapes of many smaller Haiaf seal-pendants from Arpatchiya (cf. Homès-Fredericq 1970: Figs. 227, 231) and the large Halaf pendant from Yarimtepe (cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 83). The base design of the present seal with its irregularity and experimental(?) form presents a combination of "plane group p4mm" layout in its simple form (ovoid top and center of round base) with an irregular "point group 4mm" in its geometric cruciform form. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abbs. 7, 9. The earliest excavated example of a plain cruciform design with two strokes ("point group 4mm") was found in an Aceramic Neolithic context in Ras Shamra (according to Von Wickede 1990:91, No. 3 this seal from Ras Shamra may be an intrusion from a later Neolithic level). The earliest excavated cruciform design built of an uneven number of crossing lines with strokes in quadrants occurs in Hassuna-Samarra glyptic. Cf. ibid., No. 44 (ridge or loop-handle, round base, Yarimtepe). Thus, although the cruciform design is not as common in Neolithic glyptic as later on in Ubaid glyptic, it is none the less known. Combined designs are typical of Halaf glyptic. However, the "plane group p4mm" in its simple form, which is a favorite motif throughout Ceramic Neolithic glyptic, virtually disappears in Halaf glyptic and does not decorate any of the seal-amulets' tops in this era. Therefore, this large seal was probably produced during the Ceramic Neolithic era or is a transitional piece between Ceramic Neolithic and early Chalcolithic periods combining old traditions (shape, size and engraving technique) with an uncommon old motif in an experimental way.

21



26

**Object:** mottled green-black serpentine, 27x17x11.5mm. Original shape: handled seal with low, bulging lug or loop-handle slightly off center of back and rounded back contours; sub-oval(?) base with very rounded corners cut into half or near half at center of perforation. Present shape: curved back contours gradually developed into rounded bulging top cut on one side; irregular sub-rectangular base: one long straight side with angular corners and curved sides with wide notch and very rounded corners. Remains of original handle perforation. Secondary, ancient pear-like perforation on narrower back side through base.

**Technique:** linear cutting of stone: fairly deep cut with thin drill (beginning of original design?); the rest fairly shallow, irregular cut with thin drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** straight line parallel to straight base side; few irregular strokes, small chevron and two very small drilled dots haphazardly placed on field.

**Date/origin:** 6th-middle of 5th millennium, Neolithic and/or early Chalcolithic (Halaf or early Ubaid periods), North Syria or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the piece was probably originally manufactured as an ear or loop- handle ovoid seal in the later Neolithic period. For similar shapes to the presumed original shape of the present piece, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 34 (similar back and handle shape, irregular ovoid base with no curved in contour, Tell Tayinat[?], Neolithic era, found out of context), 37 (similar base shape with curved in contour, different handle shape, Tell Acana, Neolithic era, found out of context). A central line as the only base motif is fairly rare in Neolithic or even Halaf period glyptic. Cf. WFC No. 16 above. Base decoration formed of a central line with few strokes off it or of few strokes cutting across it occur more frequently in these periods. Cf. WFC No. 15 above. For Halaf period and early Ubaid period low handled seals of various shapes with drilled through base holes on sides of low back handled seals or as secondary perforation through center of broken handle cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 232 (Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period) and WFC Nos. 141, 142, 144. The perforation through base gives this piece a semi-pendant like character.

#### 4. Small conoidal-pyramidal seals and close shapes



21

**Object:** black serpentine, 16.5x9.5x16mm. Irregular, narrow conoidal-pyramidal, with curved sides and top and one straight side, elongated ovoid base. Large perforation (5.5mm) off center below top, on short axis. Pebble(?) adapted to seal. Deep chip on narrow rounded side.

**Technique:** fairly shallow, uneven, linear cut with angular edged implement; wide perforation from both sides narrowing to small hole in center.

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for a very similarly shaped seal of identical size, perforation technique, base shape and same base design cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 22 (Tell

Judeideh, Amuq A). For similarly shaped small conoidal-pyramidal seals cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 8 (more regular grid criss-cross base design, bought North Syria or Mesopotamia)(1); Buchanan 1981: No. 16. The fairly shallow base cut is untypical of Amuq A glyptic and may indicate a later date. For a much later pebble like seal of similar shape but with a very different base decoration within linear framed base cf. Keel-Leu 1991: No. 52 (11th-13th century B.C., from Palestine).



28

**Object:** brown, cream, black serpentine, 19.5x6.5x11.5mm. Thin, narrow, irregular sub-conoidal-pyramidal seal or pendant. Thin back with rounded sides, thin, curved top; elongated oval base with sides, rounded to back. Large perforation (10mm.) off center on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut; very wide perforation from both sides narrowing to smaller hole in center.

**Description:** length wise central line.

**Date/origin:** first half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 27 above but narrower. The shallow line in center of base does not seem deep enough for sealing. For central line as only base design cf. WFC Nos. 16, 31, 447, and the design on WFC No. 15.



29

**Object:** light grey, whitish, cream limestone, 20x12x11mm. Conoidal-pyramidal back with ovoid-shaped, slightly convex top, round side contours; sub-ovoid base, narrow at one end, with round corners. Perforation (5mm.) near base on short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with medium size drill on base and shallow linear cut with thinner drill on top; perforation from both sides with thin ring in slightly narrower hole center.

**Description:** top: irregular grid criss-cross design with few lines. Base: criss-cross design with straight and diagonal lines.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A (or Amuq B), with later additions(?) (5th-4th millennium), North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for "plane group p211" layout on a Neolithic handled seal cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 9, No. 34 (Tell Tayinat?) and for a seal of similar shape, size and position of hole cf. ibid.: No. 20 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A). For seals with decorated tops cf. WFC Nos. 2, 6. The irregular, shallower top design of the present seal seems to be a later addition by a different hand. Diagonal criss-cross designs of similar type to that on top of the present seal were found mainly on 4th millennium buttons, hemispheroids and sub-hemispheroid seals in Susa. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 36, 37 (Susa A), 107 (Susa B) and especially 111 (same base design as our seal, Susa B), 123 (oval hemispheroid, decorated on top and base with irregular criss-cross design and small drilled holes). For the assumed continued use of Amuq A seals with criss-cross base design in Amuq G, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 329, Fig. 329:1, 2.



30

**Object:** grey-greenish serpentine, 25x16.5x8mm. Conoidal-shaped pendant (or seal) with conoidal end as base (if pendant; and as top if seal), thin, elongated ovoid cut-top (if pendant or base if seal) narrowing to "thread"-like center, curved side contours and base. Large "pear" shaped perforation (6x8mm.), very close to top, on short axis. Curved base undecorated.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut; perforation slightly wider on both wider faces.

**Description:** top and sides B+D (narrow): central line. Side A (wide): six parallel vertical lines, one of them slightly diagonal. Side C (wide): central line crossed by three diagonal lines in different angles with few strokes near base. **Date/origin:** 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic or Chalcolithic, Amuq A to Halaf periods, North-West Syria - South East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** rare shape. The perforation hole shape and technique are identical to the perforation on an Amuq A pyramidal-conoidal seal with slightly flatter top. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 22 (Tell Judeideh). "Top" and "base" determined for this specimen by nearness of perforation hole to edge of stone. The piece in its present state is probably a seal-pendant, with the perforation hole near the wider edge, hence, near the decorated "top". Pendants of this shape do not occur among the large variety of Halaf period seal-pendant shapes. These latter pieces are usually characterized by perforation on their narrow sides. However, cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 145 (seal-pendant, decorated face shape similar to present piece

when conceived as conoid seal). Seal-pendants are rarely decorated on either top or base, but see Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 232 (Arpachiyah, Halaf period); WFC No. 97 and pyramidal seals WFC Nos. 2, 186. A crudely made, undecorated "pendant ... or some sort of scraping tool" of similar shape was found in Judeideh, in Amuq F context. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 252, fig. 190:7. Both specimens were probably first manufactured as conoidal-pyramidal seals with ovoid bases or as tools, or copied in miniature, a tool form. On both specimens the large perforation is very close to the thin, flat, elongated ovoid top which was probably the original base of the objects in their "stamp-seal" or "tool" phase. For rounded top pyramidal seal with wider rectangular base and smaller perforation hole cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 175 (Arpachiyah, Halaf period). The present piece could represent a transitional stage or a missing link between Amuq A conoidal seals or seal-pendant-amulets and Halaf period seal-pendants.



31

**Object:** red-brown, yellowish serpentine, 12x7.5x12.5mm. Irregular wide "tear-drop" shaped bead-seal(?), seal-amulet(?). Diagonally cut inward on sides of perforation; convex, ovoid base. "Pear" shaped perforation (3x4mm.) in center, on short axis. When held with narrow top downwards shape resemble stylized animal's (sheep's?) head.

**Technique:** very shallow linear cut.

**Description:** back and front: two short diagonal grooves on one side; central groove with few strokes on other side. Base: short lengthwise groove on half of base.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium, Transitional period between Ceramic Neolithic to early Chalcolithic, pre-Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** pear-shaped perforation identical in shape to the perforation of a conoidal-pyramidal seal from Tell Judeideh. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 22 (Amuq A). The very shallow linear base design on the present piece does not seem deep enough for sealing. For similarly shaped, undecorated beads cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 36:4 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A), 67:5 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq B). Small decorated seal-pendant-amulets are a typical feature of Halaf glyptic. Some are decorated with very few lines, but none are of an identical shape to the present piece. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 83, 194, 115. The present piece is probably an example of a pre-Halaf pendant-amulet-seal. For three-dimensional bucraea of a more naturalistic nature from the Halaf period cf. ibid.: Nos. 163-5.

32



**Object:** olive green with cream veins serpentine, 14x12.5x20.5mm. Tall conoid with thin, handle-like sub-pyramidal apex with round or cut-top, ovoid base. Perforation (2mm. wide) in thin handle-like apex, on short axis. Broken on top on perforation base.

**Technique:** fairly deep and shallower linear cut with medium size implement narrowing to thinner linear cut with same(?) implement.

**Description:** linear design: two lines crossed by one line and thinner parallel, shorter line.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 6th millennium (or early 5th millennium), Ceramic Neolithic (or early Chalcolithic), pre-Hassuna-Samarra(?), Hassuna-Samarra or Amuq B periods, (or early Halaf period), North-West Syria or South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** no identical seal has been found in excavations. The nearest shapes to this conoid with its narrowing pyramidal-like apex are pyramidal seals with a handle-like apex from the Ceramic Neolithic period. These pyramidal seals have in common with the present piece a perforated handle-like pyramidal apex but differ from it in their four sided pyramidal back and squarish base with angular corners. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 1, 16, 17, Tab. 3, Abb. 30.1 (Tell Judeideh, out of Neolithic context, Amuq B?), No. 20 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A). Conoids and pyramidal seals are closely connected in Neolithic glyptic. Thus, it is safe to assume that alongside the development of the pyramidal seal with handle-like apex shape, or slightly later, and in the same(?) Syrian environment, was also developed a conoidal version of this unique close bodied seal shape. The present seal is probably an example of this process. For an unperforated, elongated conoid with round base and gradual slanting back, cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 301 (Tell Halaf, Halaf period). For a conoid with round top and more squat proportions cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 52 (Tell as-Sawwan, Hassuna-Samarra period). Cf. also the later perforated conoids in Von der Osten, 1956: fig. 2, 34 (flat base, Saktsh) and WFC No. 378. The nearest parallels to the present seal's base design with few lines and to its cut technique are found either on Hassuna-Samarra period seals or on Halaf period seal-amulets. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 46 (small handled, square base, more symmetrical layout, Tell Matarra, Hassuna-Samarra period), No. 51 (similar cut technique, Tell as-Sawwan, Hassuna-Samarra period), 83 (large amulet-seal-pendant, Yarimtepe, Halaf period); WFC No. 33 below (sub-conoidal-pyramid).



33

**Object:** cream, yellowish, white limestone, 17x10x12mm. Conoidal-pyramidal seal, irregular curved sides, sloping back thinning toward rounded top similar to loop-handle, irregular ovoid base with one wide straight side. Comparatively large handle perforation (6mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size implement; wide perforation reaching back, narrowing in center of hole.

**Description:** simple grid criss-cross design. Central line crossed by two lines with one diagonal stroke off central line.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Hassuna-Samarra, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the curved top and comparatively small size of this seal are typical of Hassuna-Samarra glyptic. The few line base design also finds parallels on seals from this period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 46 (size, linear design, Tell Matarra), 51 (linear base design, Tell as-Sawwan), 52 (size, shape and base design, Tell as-Sawwan). For similar design cf. also WFC No. 61 (with lists); shape and simple linear design also close to WFC No. 53.

## 5. Pyramidal or conoidal-pyramidal seals with low handles



34

**Object:** mottled black, brown, cream flint, 18.5x6.5x12mm. Pyramid back narrowing to thin rounded top with flat, polished sides with sharp side contours, long rectangular base with angular corners. Fairly small back perforation (4mm.) on short axis. Decorated on short sides and base.

**Technique:** fairly deep, even linear cut; wide perforation cut from both sides narrowing to very small hole in center.

**Description:** sides A, C: grid criss-cross design. Central line crossed by four lines continuing to base. Base: grid criss cross design. Central line crossed by nine lines continuing to sides A and C.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic period, Transitional period between Amuq A and Amuq B, or Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for a much larger flint conoidal-pyramidal seal of Ceramic Neolithic or Halaf period date cf. WFC No. 4. No excavated pyramid seal from Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods has come to light. However, due to the comparative popularity of the form in pre-Amuq B glyptic and its reappearance during the Halaf

period it is assumed by Von Wickede and others that certain categories of the form were continued to be produced, with modifications, during the entire Ceramic Neolithic period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 254, Tab. 3. The features of the present pyramidal seal point to its being an example of this missing link. In its elongated shape the piece resembles the much larger ovoid based pyramidal seal from Ras Shamra and has affinities also with the larger, narrower and rounded contoured seal with an elongated oval base design from Tell Judeideh. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 21, 22 (Amuq A). Its "plane group p2mm" design of one row is typical of Amuq A or earlier glyptic. Cf. WFC No. 1. In its decorated sides this seal is connected to WFC No. 2. However, the rigid, and very even cut of "plane group p2mm" design on the present seal, its small dimensions, as well as its sharp angular contours and rectangular base are characteristics of Amuq B and even more so of Hassuna-Samarra glyptic. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 29 (dimensions, rectangular base with angular corners, Tell Judeideh, Amuq B period), 41, 42, 43, 45 (elongated rectangular bases with slightly rounded and sharp angular corners, rigid, even design, No. 43 (dimensions, Yarimtepe, Hassuna-Samarra period), 46 (dimensions). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 8 (elongated shape with rounded contours, larger, bought North Syria or Mesopotamia, probably Amuq A period); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 170.1 (similar shape and size with small horizontal cavity below perforation, of same date as present piece).



35

**Object:** black serpentine, 22x17x25.5mm. Tall pyramidal back with thin truncated top, straight sides joined in sharp contours, rectangular base with sharp angular corners. Perforation (8x9mm.) near top on short axis. Chipped on one side and base.

**Technique:** deep, rigid, linear cut with angular implement of triangular section; large perforation narrowing gradually into comparatively small hole.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design. Two vertical lines crossed by four horizontal lines, sparsely spaced, forming plane of symmetrical rectangles and squares.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Hassuna-Samarra period or Amuq B horizon, North Iraq or North-West Syria-South-West Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** technique and shape of perforation identical to some Amuq A examples. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 21 (larger and wider pyramidal seal, same base design on ovoid base, Ras Shamra, Amuq A), 28 (amulet-seal, Tell Judeideh, Amuq A). Base design and depth of cut almost identical to WFC. No. 3. Base design (plane group p2mm) slightly combined with plane group

p4mm) and shape of base identical to those of a seal from Yarimtepe, cf. ibid.: No. 47 (Hassuna-Samarra period). The shape of this seal is post Amuq A. Cf. ibid.: 91 and above. For an identically shaped seal with the same, though less rigid base design, on rounded corners base cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 2 (dated to Amuq A, but probably later). Cf. also the similarly shaped piece in Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 170.5.

25



36

**Object:** black serpentine, 18x15x15.5mm. Tall pyramidal back with straight sides with fairly sharp contours, sub-rectangular base with slightly rounded corners. Perforated (9mm. wide) on short axis. Broken top at center of large perforation and chipped on base. Worn and scratched on back.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin and wider angle edged implements, base lines tapering off towards edges. Perforation cut in rotation from two sides forming two large conoidal shaped cavities narrowing toward hollowed center. Cavities not polished, round ring left below center of hole.

**Description:** Grid criss-cross design. Four horizontal lines crossed by three vertical lines with additional faint vertical cross line, forming rectangles and square rows. Lines fairly sparsely spaced.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Hassuna-Samarra period or Amuq B, North Iraq or North-West Syria-South-West Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 35 above. Base design is a combination of "plane groups p2mm and p4mm." Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 9.



37

**Object:** grey serpentine, 20x11x25mm. High pyramid back with slightly curved, cut top, rounded contour sides, ovoid base. Large perforation (7mm.) below top on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin edged implement; wide perforation on sides narrowing to center of hole.

**Description:** irregular criss-cross design. Six vertical straight lines crossed by three diagonal lines.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium (or later),

Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra (or later), North-West Syria - South East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for "plane group p211" base design cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 11; WFC Nos. 29, 39. For shape and size cf. WFC No. 36. Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 2 (shape, size and base shape, Amuq c. 5000 B.C.). This shape continues well into later glyptic. For an example from Tepe Gawra, level XII (Well), Ubaid 4 period cf. Hommel-Frederiq, 1970: Fig. 29 (broken top, smaller, different engraving technique and base design).



38

**Object:** black-greenish serpentine, 22.5x17x11.5mm. Pyramidal back with curved contour sides ending in sub-loop top, uneven rectangular base with slightly rounded corners. Perforated (4mm. wide) very close to top, on short axis. Broken above perforation and chipped on base.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size and thin drills with sharp ends; perforation from both sides with round drill and thin ring in center.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design with many lines, forming two rows of rectangles in center with one row of squares on their sides with the horizontal lines continuing to edges.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Transitional period between Amuq A and later Ceramic Neolithic or Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods. North-West Syria - South East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC No. 36. Same linear cut and base design, but less rigid and more open-edged, and same perforation technique. Small rounded-bulging tops or loop-handles began to appear in the transitional period between Amuq A and the later Neolithic glyptic. Small loop-handles are one of the most characteristic features of Hassuna-Samarra period. The present seal's top presents an example of the link between the curved cut-tops typical of conoidal-pyramidal seals of Amuq A glyptic and the central-loop handles of the Hassuna-Samarra era. For a similar transitional form with the same base design and open-edged cut cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 34 (Tell Tayinat[?], Neolithic period, Second Mixed Range, Amuq A or possibly B). For a similar design, base shape and cut on a loop-handled seal cf. ibid.; No. 52 (Tell as-Sawwan, Hassuna-Samarra period).



39

**Object:** pink-cream with dark grey veins serpentine, 21x16x15mm. Conoidal-pyramidal back with round contours, pierced on short axis near curved top forming sub-loop-handle; irregular sub-rectangular base with rounded corners. "Pear"-like perforation (5x7mm.) very close to top, on long axis. Rubbed base from use.

**Technique:** comparatively shallow linear cut with deeper central line; perforation reaching back.

**Description:** irregular criss-cross design. Five vertical lines evenly spread, crossed by eight straight and diagonal lines of various lengths and angles.

**Date/origin:** 6th-early 5th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A or B horizons to early Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for close shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 34 (same but more regular base design, Tell Tayinat?, Neolithic glyptic, unstratified context) and WFC No. 38 above. This pyramidal shape with its sub-loop-handle and sub-rectangular base develops toward the end of the Ceramic Neolithic into a new type with conoidal back and circular base, and becomes a common shape in Halaf glyptic. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 197-199 (Halaf period); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 11. For same "plane group p211" base design cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 22 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A) and WFC No. 29 above. Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 169.3 (shape and base design), 172.4 (shape).



40

**Object:** black-dark brown serpentine. Present measurements: 19.5x16.5x8mm. Low pyramidal back with curved contour sides ending in sub-loop top, rectangular base with slightly rounded corners. Perforated (5mm. wide) on short axis. One side of sub-loop top broken, chipped on base.

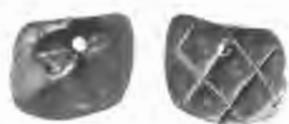
**Technique:** deep, rigid, even cut with angular implement. Perforation technique: two round, uneven hollowing from each side, with very thin ring in center at point of joining.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq B horizon or Hassuna-Samarra periods, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape as WFC No. 38, but lower. For similar regular "plane group c2mm" layout on rectangular based seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 9, Nos. 29 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq B), 41, 42, 45 (Yarimtepe,

Hassuna-Samarra period), 43 (Tell Hassuna, Hassuna-Samarra period). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 4 (c. 5000 B.C.). The same design in shallower, less rigid cut and more dense form occurs also on a bone pyramid ending in a gable-like top, with very large ovoid perforation. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 56 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Gawra period).



41

**Object:** dark brown-reddish serpentine, 16x13x8mm. Low, irregular pyramidal back with three sloping, curved edges sides, one concave-triangular side; sub-rectangular (close to curved rhomboid) base with convex and concave wide edges, rounded corners. Back originally ended with thin, pyramidal (pointed?) top. Broken above original perforation (4.5mm. wide) on short axis. Secondary perforation (2mm.) in center of original perforation through base, on side of base. Secondary, ancient perforation, not pierced during manufacture.

**Technique:** fairly deep cut with comparatively thin, angle edged implement.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design, wide spacing of few lines.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Hassuna-Samarra period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the uneven shape and curved base are characteristics of Amuq A glyptic. However, this seal's small size and depth of cut point to a date in post Amuq A period in the Ceramic Neolithic era. The diagonal criss-cross base design is an example of the symmetrical "plane group c2mm" type. This type of geometric decoration is used throughout prehistoric glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 261, Abb. 9. Large spacing of the rhomboids in "plane group c2mm" occurs throughout Ceramic Neolithic glyptic, but is especially common in the Hassuna-Samarra period. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 24 (deeper cut than on present seal, Tell Qaminas, Amuq A, or transitional between Amuq A and Amuq B), 37 (deeper cut than on present seal, Tell Acana, Neolithic seal found out of stratified context), 41 (identical spacing of lines and depth of cut, Yarimtepe, Hassuna-Samarra period), 43 (small loop handled seal with broken loop handle and small secondary ancient perforation through base of identical shape and size to that on the present seal, smaller spacing of lines and same depth of cut, Yarimtepe, Hassuna-Samarra period). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 5 (for design, bought at Gaziantep, probably from Tell Bashar to the south, dated by authors to the Aceramic Neolithic but could be later), 8 (for secondary perforation through base, bought North Syria or Mesopotamia, dated by authors to the Aceramic Neolithic but probably of Amuq A date); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 172.4 (for similar though more regular shape and similar top, 6th millennium); Amorai-Stark 1993: No. 1 (same base

design, high pyramidal handle, rectangular base with rounded corners, found at Knayah, North Syria, 6th-5th millennium B.C.).

27



42

**Object:** dark and lighter green serpentine, 16.5x14x8mm. Conoidal-pyramidal back with rounded side contours, with groove on one wide side of back below perforation forming (on this side) sub-loop handle across back; irregular sub-ovoid base with one angular corner. Comparatively large back perforation (5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular edged implement; perforation from two side narrowing in center of hole with half circle of stone in center of hole.

**Description:** irregular linear design. Two parallel horizontal lines of different length, crossed: on one side by two vertical lines; on other side by one vertical line; in center by two diagonal lines.

**Date/origin:** 6th millennium (or early 5th millennium), Ceramic Neolithic, later Amuq A or Amuq B, (or transitional between the later period and Halaf period), North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** engraving technique and depth of cut indicate an early date. Design, a variant of "point group 1" layout could be the prototype for the similar, but more rigid and delicate designs on pointed pyramids WFC Nos. 43, 45 below. For similar linear design and cut on a small "button" seal cf. WFC No. 62.



43

**Object:** black serpentine, 14x13.5x6.5mm. Low pyramid with angular back side contours, sub-rectangular base with angular corners. Comparatively large perforation (4mm.) on long axis, below apex. Chipped base.

**Technique:** delicate, symmetrical linear cut with thin drill, perforation with drill.

**Description:** horizontal, parallel lines evenly and densely spaced, crossed by two parallel lines on one side, one parallel line on other side and two diagonal lines in center.

**Date/origin:** later 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Late Ceramic Neolithic - Early Chalcolithic, Amuq B (or C) period - North-West area of Halaf culture, North-West Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the base design is a variant of "point group 1" decoration. Examples of this geometric design occur both in Ceramic Neolithic and Halaf glyptic. In the earlier period these linear designs are found on large ridge-handled sub-oval seals from Ceramic Neolithic Tell Judeideh. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 17 (Amuq A), 31-32 (unstratified context, Amuq A or B). In the Halaf period they occur on various seals of similar small size, however, usually with a round or ovoid base shape, and in a less rigid design. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 61, 75 (impressions, Arpatchiyah), 141, 169 (seal-amulets, less rigid design, Arpatchiyah), 174 (pyramidal seal with ovoid base, less rigid design, Arpatchiyah). Pure pyramid shaped seals are rare in Halaf glyptic and the only excavated angular based small pyramid seal from this period comes from Chagar Bazar in North Syria. Cf. ibid.: No. 176 (criss-cross base design). Cf. also the similar designs on small loop-handled seals with square bases from Ras Shamra, Halaf period in ibid.: Nos. 183-85, 187.



44

**Object:** black-greenish serpentine, 21x17x7mm. Low pyramid with angular back side contours, rectangular base with angular corners. Perforated (5x5.5mm) on short axis. Chipped base.

**Technique:** delicate, symmetrical linear cut with thin drill; perforation reaching back.

**Description:** symmetrical linear design. Horizontal, parallel lines, evenly and densely spaced crossed near shorter edges by double, parallel, vertical lines and in center by two sets of double, parallel, diagonal lines, meeting. The whole forming large "M" on top of horizontal lines.

**Date/origin:** later 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Late Ceramic Neolithic - Early Chalcolithic, Amuq B (or C) period - North-West area of Halaf culture, North-West Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 43 above, though larger and with a rectangular base.



45

**Object:** pink-red limestone, 13x10x9mm. Low pyramid, rectangular base. Perforated (4mm.) on long axis, below apex.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin drill; perforation reaching back.

**Description:** symmetrical linear design. Diagonal criss-cross lines evenly spaced, crossed near short edges by double, parallel, vertical lines and in center by one set of double, parallel, diagonal lines in opposite direction to other diagonal lines. The whole forming large "N" on top of diagonal lines.

**Date/origin:** later 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Late Ceramic Neolithic - Early Chalcolithic, Amuq B (or C) period - North-West area of Halaf culture, North-West Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC Nos. 43, 44 (larger) above.



46

**Object:** dark grey-green serpentine, 12x12x6mm. Low pyramidal back with curved contours, square base with rounded corners and "chevron" notch in center of each square's side forming "four petalled" flower base. Original perforation (4mm. wide) below thin curved top broken in antiquity (during manufacture?). Secondary perforation (4mm.) perforated on 90 degrees angle of original cut, partially broken below thin rounded top.

**Technique:** delicate, sharp cuts with sharp, thin implement.

**Description:** irregular diagonal criss-cross design with few grid criss-cross lines forming semi-frame with additional lines.

**Date/origin:** later 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Later Ceramic Neolithic or early Chalcolithic, Transitional period between Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra cultures to Halaf period, Syria - South-East Anatolia, or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** back shape same as WFC No. 40. For notched bases on handled Ceramic Neolithic seals cf. WFC Nos. 23, 24. Similar notched bases also occur on handled rectangular based seals in Halaf glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 195 (Çavı Tarlası, Halaf period) and WFC Nos. 62, 156. For similar, irregular combination of "point group 1" and "plane group c2mm" layouts as base decoration cf. ibid.: Nos. 70 (impression, Arpatchiya, Halaf period); WFC Nos. 22, 39 (pyramids).

6. Pyramids with triangular narrow side profile handles



47

**Object:** black-dark grey serpentine, 18.5x9.5x14mm. High loop handle with triangular narrow sides profile top and rounded corners in center, above truncated pyramidal back; sub-rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (4.5x5mm) reaching pyramidal back, pierced on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep, rigid, even, linear cut with angular implement; perforation technique same as WFC No. 40.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** size and position of handle indicate a later date than Amuq A. This seal's pyramidal back shape and size are almost identical with above WFC No. 40 which originally probably also had a similar loop-handle. High loop-handles, though with a less elongated top and a less pronounced triangular profile, occur in Hassuna-Samarra period where they are similarly placed in the center of a low slanting back. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 41 (rectangular base decorated with "plane group c2mm" design, Yarimtepe). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 1 (same shape, handle, material and design, bought Aleppo), 9; Buchanan 1981: No. 4 (base design, density of lines, Amuq).



48

**Object:** light-grey-cream limestone, 15x13x13mm. High sub-loop handle with triangular narrow sides profile top above center of pyramidal back, grooved below handle; rectangular base with rounded corners. Comparatively large handle perforation (5x6mm.) reaching pyramidal back, on short axis. Two means of suspension: perforation and groove.

**Technique:** fairly deep and rigid, even, linear cut with angular implement; perforation technique same as No. 47 above.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as above WFC No. 47, but smaller and with "plane group p2mm" layout. For the

same design on a small rectangular base from the Hassuna-Samarra period cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 48 (Yarimtepe).



49

**Object:** white, pink, red, grey marble, 13x11x17.5mm. High sub-loop handle with triangular narrow sides profile and slanting wide sides with rounded corners, directly above sub-pyramidal back. Back deeply grooved at half length below handle; rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforated (4mm.) in center of back on short axis. Broken on side of back and base corner. Two means of suspension: perforation and groove.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as above WFC No. 48 but more pyramidal-like and with a less rigid cut.



50

**Object:** brown-black serpentine, 13x12.5x13mm. Thin loop-handle "growing" from sloping pyramidal back, sub-square base with angular and slightly rounded corners. Perforated (3mm.) on short axis on base of handle.

**Technique:** linear cut with angular edged implement.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium (or first half of 5th millennium), Ceramic Neolithic, Later Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods, (or early Chalcolithic, Halaf period), North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type similar to above WFC Nos. 48, 49 but closer to a conoidal-pyramid. Cf. especially Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 169. 4, 5 (identical shape and base design, but larger).



51

**Object:** orange, pink, cream marble, 24.5x19x16mm. Ridge handle with triangular narrow sides profile top across high pyramidal back, grooved below handle; rectangular base with sharp angles. Large rounded handle perforation (6x7mm.) off center reaching back, on short axis. Two means of suspension: perforation and groove. Back partly left unpolished. Base slightly chipped.

**Technique:** deep, sharp, broad and rigid linear cut with angular or triangular implement, with few thinner linear detailing; perforation technique same as WFC No. 48.

**Description:** prancing quadruped - she-goat(?), small "V"-like horns or ears; four straight, diagonal legs; very short raised tail (or no tail), with three parallel linear strokes on lowerbody. Bird(?) above:

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th-5th millennium, Hassuna-Samarra, Halaf or early Ubaid periods, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** handle shape and perforation technique identical to that of the similar, though smaller pyramids with criss-cross base designs dated to Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods. Cf. WFC Nos. 47, 48 (with same two means of suspension), 49. The sharp angular base corners are more pronounced on this seal than on the above pyramids. The engraving base technique of the present seal is close to that of the seated humans on the Hassuna-Samarra impression, while the type of animal on the present piece with its short "ears", "tail" and parallel legs is not unlike the individual animal and the two animals on the Halaf period square impression and pendant. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 53 (Tell as-Sawwan, Hassuna-Samarra period), 81 (Tepe Gawra, Halaf period), 83 (Yarimtepe III, Halaf period). Simple depictions of individual animals in "point group 1" layout date from the Aceramic Neolithic and occur regularly in prehistoric glyptic from the Halaf period onwards. However, no excavated example is known from the Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra eras. Filling motives, as on the present pyramid, are not found on pre-Ubaid depictions of animals. The first excavated example occurs on a lentoid from Tepe Gawra, cf. ibid.: No. 218 (early Ubaid period). However, cf. WFC No. 4.

## 7. Loop-handled seals, small "button seals" with various low handles and a related piece



52

**Object:** dark grey-green serpentine, 26x22.5x10mm. Wide loop handle in center of back, above thin rectangular base with rounded corners. Handle perforation (5mm.) slightly reaching back sides, on short axis. One base corner broken.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear cut with thin drills with pointed ends.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design comparatively widely spaced.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Hassuna-Samarra period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for discussion of the wide spaced "plane group 2cmm" layout see above WFC. No. 41. For examples of seals with similar loop-handles decorated on base with this layout or with other variations of the criss-cross designs from the Hassuna-Samarra culture cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 41 (Yarimtepe), 52 (Tell es-Sawwan). In the Halaf period this type of wide loop-handle develops into an half-cylinder handle above a round base. Cf. ibid.: No. 90 (Arpatchiya). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 1, 2 (shape, design and spacing of lines). For same design in a more condensed form on a smaller loop-handled seal cf. WFC No. 56.



53

**Object:** black-brown serpentine, 19x15.5x12mm. Conoidal back with high loop handle in center, oval base. Handle perforation (4x7mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin drills with sharp ends; elongated perforation formed of two joined drilled holes drilled from both sides.

**Description:** irregular linear design forming an irregular central cross with two parallel lines not joined, with one diagonal line in three quadrants and very few strokes.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium. Ceramic Neolithic, Hassuna-Samarra, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for an identically shaped seal with similar linear design and an ovoid base cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 51 (Tell as-Sawwan, Hassuna-Samarra period). Cf. also the similar base design on ibid.: No. 44 (Yarimtepe, Hassuna-Samarra period). For similar seals from the Amuq area cf. Braidwood/ Braidwood 1960: figs.

101:3 (more regular cross with strokes, First Mixed Range, probably Amuq B), 2 (similar shape and size, developed criss-cross design, First Mixed Range, Amuq B), 67:11 (undecorated "pendant" of similar shape, Amuq B). For irregular linear designs cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 297 (flat discoid, Tell Halaf, Halaf period); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 207, Pl. 56, first on lastrow.



54

**Object:** grey serpentine, 20x17x10.5mm. Wide loop handle on conoidal back, irregular ovoid base. Perforation (4.5mm) below top, on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut, fairly deep drilled central dot (3.5mm., 2mm. deep); even, round drilled perforation holes.

**Description:** line-filled cross with central drilled hole and radiating strokes in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** middle to late 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Hassuna-Samarra (or early Halaf period) North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape of seal and handle perforation technique are typical of Hassuna-Samarra glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 41 (same handle and perforation, Yarimtepe I), 51 (same overall shape, Tell as-Sawwan), 52 (same handle and perforation, Tell as-Sawwan). For the design, without the central drilled dot on an oval based seal of this period, cf. ibid.: 44 (Yarimtepe I). Cf. also Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 101:3 (thinner handle, without central drilled dot, unstratified context). For very similar design on low loop-handle button seal cf. Amorai-Stark 1993: SBF No. 2 (found at Knayah, North Syria). For the design cf. also WFC Nos. 63 (ridge handle), 173 (pyramid), 237, 300 (hemispheroids).



55

**Object:** dark green-black serpentine, 15x11x10mm. Irregular loop-ear handle above sloping back with rounded contours, sub-ovoid base cut on one side. Comparatively large handle perforation (5mm.) almost reaching base, on short axis.

**Technique:** deep cut with angular edged implement.

**Description:** central line with triangle ending in stroke on top. Geometric or zoomorphic (bird's head?) design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th-first half of 5th

millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Hassuna-Samarra, or early Chalcolithic, Halaf period, North-Iraq, Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and irregular ovoid base shape are typical to late Ceramic Neolithic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 51 (Tell as-Sawwan, Hassuna-Samarra); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 101:2 (ovoid base, First Mixed Range, Amuq B or F) and other examples above. For shape cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 7 (circular base, criss-cross design, bought North Syria, 6th millennium). The Halaf period small handled seals usually have round or rectangular bases. However, for similar shapes cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 298 (Tell Halaf), 307 (Chagar Bazar in the Khabur area). The design has no parallel in excavated material. If geometric - it may be unfinished. Zoomorphic designs occur sporadically already in Aceramic Neolithic and appear also in Hassuna-Samarra and Halaf glyptic. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 4. None of them represent a bird's head. The only figurative depiction incorporating triangular forms in a schematic representation appears in the anthropomorphic example from the Hassuna-Samarra culture. Cf. ibid.: No. 53 (square impression, Tell as-Sawwan). This anthropomorphic Hassuna-Samarra depiction differs from the present piece in its symmetrical layout covering the whole surface. No zoomorphic depiction of the Halaf period is rendered with triangular cut but a similar empty space surrounding a motif does occur. Cf. ibid.: No. 83 (Yarimtepe III).



56

**Object:** dark green serpentine, 15.5x11x8.5mm. Small irregular loop-handle on top of angular sided low back, sub-triangular base with rounded corners. Small perforation (2.5x3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** delicate, even linear cut with thin, angular edged implement.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design, dense, equally spaced lines.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra cultures, North-West Syria South-East Anatolia, or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** base shape and design identical to WFC. No. 13. However, the diminutive size of this seal, its handle and delicate, dense cut are more in line with later Neolithic glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 29 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq B), 43 (Tell Hassuna, Hassuna-Samarra period). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 170, 1, 2 (similar shape and same base design), 171, 1 (similar shape and base design), 2 (same base shape and design).



51

32

**Object:** dark grey-black serpentine, 17x14.5x5mm. Low sub-ridge handle with flat top across center of back, thin rectangular base with round corners. Small handle perforation (3mm.) on short axis. Slightly chipped base.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin implement.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design, some lines not reaching edge.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th millennium-first half of 5th millennium, Later Ceramic Neolithic or early Chalcolithic, Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra cultures or Halaf period, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC No. 56 above. For small seals with the same condensed "plane group c2mm" design cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 9, Nos. 29 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq B), 43, 45 (identical handle, Yarimtepe, Hassuna-Samarra period), 182 (more angular ridge handle, however, identical handles occur also in this period on similar bases, Ras Shamra, Halaf period). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 206, 2 (shape and design), 207, pl. 56, third on second lower row (shape and design).



58

**Object:** dark green serpentine, 16.5x11.5x9mm. Low loop-handle in center of back above thin rectangular base with rounded corners. Small handle perforation (3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with thin, angular edged implement.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic (or early Chalcolithic), Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra cultures or Halaf period, North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type similar to WFC No. 57 above but with fewer, more neatly arranged lines. For shape cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 13. Rectangular bases with small loop-handles are more common in Amuq B/Hassuna-Samarra glyptic than in Halaf glyptic.



59

**Object:** black-greenish serpentine, 14.5x12x6.5mm. Low, loop-handle in center of back, thin rectangular base with slightly rounded corners. Handle perforation (4mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** delicate, even linear cut with thin edged implement.

**Description:** criss-cross design of diagonal and straight lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Early Chalcolithic, Halaf period, North-East Syria-South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similar base designs on similarly shaped small seals see WFC Nos. 56, 57 above. For an identical design "(plane group p211" layout) on a seal of the same size, shape and handle type with small side notches cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 193, 195 (Cayi Taftasi, Halaf period). Small seals with this kind of handle begin to appear in the Hassuna-Samarra period and continue through the Halaf period. Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 169, 4, 5 (larger sub-rectangular with pyramidal back, same base design)



60

**Object:** pinkish limestone with light brown veins, 16.5x13.5x5mm. Sub-tabloid(?) with two bulges in center of thick, slightly slanting rounded back, sub-rectangular base with rounded corners. Large perforation in center of back (7mm.) through base (4mm.), off center, on short axis. One corner broken and chipped on another corner and part of base.

**Technique:** deep, regular, rigid cut with medium size implement; rounded perforation between the two bulges from center of present back narrowing to smaller hole on base, hole slightly rounded from base.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design with moderately spaced lines.

**Date/origin:** later 6th-first half of 5th millennium, later Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods or Halaf period, North Iraq or North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** back formation and location of perforation which disturbs the base design indicate that this piece was originally intended as a low handled seal. Perforation technique suggest a Ceramic Neolithic date or at the latest a Halaf date. The most popular glyptic use of "plane group c2mm" base layout is in the Hassuna-Samarra culture. In the Halaf period this layout is comparatively rare. For the motif on Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods rectangular based seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 9, Tab.

4, Nos. 29 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq B), 41, 42, 45 (Yarimtepe I, Hassuna-Samarra period), 43 (Tell Hassuna, Hassuna-Samarra period). For a more condensed form of this design on a square Halaf impression cf. ibid.: No. 67 (Arpatchiya). The earliest excavated example testifying to the practice of secondary perforation drilled through base in center of a broken or worn original back handle comes from the Hassuna-Samarra period. Cf. ibid.: No. 46 (small rectangular seal of similar shape, Tell Matarra). In its shape and especially in its slightly curved, uneven back the present piece is also affiliated with certain Halaf period straight angle seal-pendants with a similarly slightly curved, uneven face. Cf. WFC No. 95.



61

**Object:** black-brown serpentine, 14x11x6.5mm. Pyramidal back with curved top, round side contours, rectangular base with rounded corners. Comparatively large, elongated back perforation (4.5x6mm.) touching base, on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut changing width and shallow linear cut with medium sized and very thin drills.

**Description:** criss-cross design. Diagonal central line crossed by three straight lines with few strokes off central line.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic (or early Chalcolithic), Amuq B or Hassuna-Samarra periods or Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 42 and even more so to WFC No. 175. However, the present stamp seal has a sharper, more angular back contours. Design layout and cut close to WFC Nos. 32, 33.



62

**Object:** black serpentine, 18x14x8mm. Small, fairly wide loop handle (almost boss handle) in center of flat back, thin, irregular rectangular base with angular and curved corners. Handle perforation (5x4mm.) cutting back, on short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular edged implement.

**Description:** irregular linear design partly criss-crossed.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Ceramic Neolithic, or early Chalcolithic, Hassuna-Samarra period, Halaf period, North Iraq, Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the cutting technique of this seal is a typical feature of later Ceramic Neolithic glyptic. The irregular linear "point group 1" layout of this seal, as well as its irregular base shape are characteristic of Ceramic Neolithic glyptic but they are also occasionally found in the Halaf period. When they occur in the Halaf period it is never on low-handled square or rectangular seals. The handle shape and perforation cutting into back are occasionally found in the Hassuna-Samarra period but are more common in Halaf period glyptic. For similar irregular linear designs on Hassuna-Samarra loop-handled seals cf. Von Wicked 199: Nos. 48 (square base, Tell Hassuna), 51 (ovoid base, Tell as-Sawwan) and on Halaf seal-pendants cf. ibid.: No. 78 (triangular impression, Arpatchiya). Cf. also WFC No. 42. For Halaf period low handled seal with similar base shape cf. ibid.: No. 184 (Ras Shamra).



63

**Object:** white, dark grey marble, 21x16.5x10mm. Ridge handle "growing" from two sides of back, grooved back on long sides of handle, rectangular base with rounded and angular corners. Comparatively small handle perforation (4mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** deep and shallower cut; perforation from both sides reaching back.

**Description:** cruciform design. Line-filled cross with short incised lines on edge.

**Date/origin:** second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium, later Neolithic or Chalcolithic, Hassuna-Samarra period or Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** design as WFC No. 137. Seals of this shape, size and handle shape are a product of Ceramic Neolithic glyptic and cease to be manufactured in the early Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wicked, Tab. 3.

## B. Early Chalcolithic Pendants-Seal Amulets and Seals (Halaf period and early Ubaid period, 5th millennium) to similar Later Chalcolithic Seals (later Ubaid period, beginning of 4th millennium)

34

The number of seals, seal-pendants and pendant-amulets from the Halaf period in the WFC is larger than that of the preceding period. Glyptic manufacture flourished in the Halaf culture showing a tendency towards experimentation and innovation with an attendant increase in output. "Excavated seals from Yarim Tepe... allow comparable examples from Tell Arpatchiya and Tepe Gawara... to be more confidently attributed to the Halaf period. Such seals are usually flat-faced, rectangular or circular, with a means of suspension on the back, either a perforated ridge, as in the Amuq, or a loop handle. The designs are cross-linear patterns without any distinctive individuality, some extremely rudimentary scratches, others finely cut and laid out. Similar designs are found on a series of contemporary, irregularly shaped pendants ("tanged pendants") at Tepe Gawara....". (Buchanan and Moorey 1984: 1). (Cf. also Von Wicked 1990: 93-125). Excavated specimens of early Ubaid seals are relatively small in number. The period as a whole displays characteristics of a transitional period. Cf. *ibid.*: 143-9. Most are placed here among the earlier prehistoric seals since especially in their shapes and geometric designs they show close connections with the later Halaf period glyptic. Cf. *ibid.*: 143-149. The number of early Ubaid pendants and stamp seals is also significantly large in this collection.

The WFC has a very impressive body of seal-pendants, pendant-amulets and seals from these two eras. Among

them, and especially within the Halaf period pieces we find some new shapes, variations on known shapes and designs and new combinations of decorative motifs. Some of these pieces represent transitory shapes or "missing links" in the present state of our knowledge of prehistoric shapes. The nominal number of zoomorphic depictions on seal-pendants and seals from these eras in the WFC is small. However, its ratio to the number of geometric depictions is similar to that from excavated sites. Furthermore, a few of these zoomorphic representations are new additions to the known zoomorphic repertoire of these glyptic cultures. Cf. WFC No. 228.

For dating cf. Braidwood 1960: 138; Amuq C; Buchanan 1981: 5: Halaf period c. 5000 B.C., Ubaid c. 4000 B.C.; Homes-Fredericq 1970: 2-3: Pre-Ubaid in Mesopotamia, c. 4500-3800 B.C. (including Hassuna and Samarra, Halaf period last stage in Pre-Ubaid), Ubaid c. 3800-3400 B.C (Ubaid I -Gawra XIX, XVI, XV; Ubaid II - Gawra XIII-Well, XIII, XII); Keel-Leu, p. 8: c. 4900-4500 B.C., Ubaid 1-2 (South Mesopotamia) c. 4900-4700, Ubaid 3 (Mesopotamia and Syria) c. 4500, Amuq E (Syria) slightly later, Ubaid 4 (Gawra XIV-XII; Susa I/II, to Amuq F) c. 4300-3800; Doumet, p. 101: Halaf period = Amuq C, Syria enters the Ubaid sphere of civilization toward the end of the 5th millennium; Von Wicked 1990: ca. 5000-4400 B.C.; Ubaid period: ca. 4400-3500 B.C. (early Ubaid: ca. 4400-4000 B.C.; later Ubaid: ca. 4000-3500 or 3400 B.C.).

### (A) Pendant-seal amulets and amulets

The WFC has a large number of pendant-seals, most of which date from the Halaf period while a few derive from the early Ubaid period. The largest number of these pieces originate in North-East Syria, North Iraq and lower South-East Anatolia. Some may come from the wider periphery of these areas, such as Central and South Mesopotamia. The largest groups of excavated seal-pendants were found in the North Mesopotamian sites of Tell Arpatchiya, Chagar Bazar to the North, Tepe Gawra, Yarimtepe II, Tell Hasan and Gird Banahik to the East; Cavi Tarlasi in South-East Anatolia and Gogjali, Tell al-Uwaili and Ras Shamra in North-West Syria. Few come from Tello, South Mesopotamia and are dated to the Ubaid period. Undecorated pendants and sculptured pendants of various shapes and sizes occur in sites ranging over a much larger geographic area and over a larger span of time. Many diverse shapes of seal-pendants were developed in the Halaf culture, some out of the Neolithic seal-pendants.

The most common shapes in the Halaf period are the small "tear-drop" and related shapes. A variety of seal-pendants shapes which developed in the Halaf culture continue to be produced throughout the early Ubaid period and into the beginning of the late Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 255. For discussion and classification of shapes cf. *ibid.*: 101-112, Abb. 4. Some of the WFC pendant-seals (for example Nos. 72-75, 78), as well as some handled seals (for example Nos. 124-127, 131, 155) and pyramid seals (for example Nos. 43-45) are decorated with engraving of very fine precision which "shows the fascination of its abstract construction... of a master engraver with different depths and emphasize of lines very new, effect of crossing enforced by the multiplication of parallel lines," (Vollenweider 1983, III: No. 1). The later North Ubaid period and Uruk periods pendant-seals and pendant-amulets in the WFC are placed in chapter B (B).

## 1. Pendant-seal amulets with geometric designs



64

**Object:** dark grey marble with patina(?), 14x17.5x5mm. Elongated tear-drop shaped pendant with rounded suspension loop on top. Perforated sidewise from face (4x5mm.) to back (3x4mm.). Flat face. Broken on left corner.

**Technique:** shallow linear incisions; wide perforation hole narrowing to small hole.

**Description:** central line with few, uneven number of diagonal lines off it and vertical line above.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Early to Late Halaf period, North Iraq, (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for the shape in Halaf excavated seal-amulets-pendants, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 108 (Arpatchiya), 133 (Arpatchiya). For similar designs with few lines on Halaf period seal-amulets-pendants cf. ibid.: Nos. 104 (Arpatchiya), 110 (Yarimtepe II), 115 (Tepe Gawra).



65

**Object:** black serpentine with brown patina, 10x13.5x3.5m. Thin, uneven ovoid "tear-drop" pendant with broken suspension loop. Perforated (3mm. wide) on sidewise. Ancient, secondary perforation (1mm. wide) in center of back through decorated face sideways, broken on top.

**Technique:** delicate, fine, regular linear drill cut of two depths; suspension loop perforation, drilled too widely for thin top and broken during manufacture(?).

**Description:** linear design. Central vertical line on sides of perforation hole, diagonal lines with short diagonal strokes in other direction (not crossing) covering field.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia (or North-West Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for the nearest shape in excavated Halaf material cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 101 (Arpatchiya) 116 (Tepe Gawra). The field design is of the rare "plane group p211" type which occurs mainly in Halaf glyptic. For the design cf. ibid.: No. 193 (small handled square based

seal, Cavi Tarlasi) but cf. also ibid.: No. 145 (seal-pendant, Arpatchiya). For secondary perforation through decorated face on Halaf seal-pendants cf. ibid.: Nos. 131 (Arpatchiya), 158 (Yarimtepe II). For secondary central hole on small pendants of close shape cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 190:9 (small edge strokes, Tell Judeideh, found in Amuq F level).



66

**Object:** opaque white limestone with light brown, cream veins, 12x18x6.5mm. "Pear"-shaped pendant with irregular, elongated rounded suspension loop. Perforated (4mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill work; perforation from both sides narrowing to small central hole.

**Description:** linear design. Central line with diagonal and vertical lines off it. Irregular "leaf"-design.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape in excavated Halaf material cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 69 (impression, Arpatchiya), 94 (Arpatchiya), 113 (similar base design, Yarimtepe II). Basically type as WFC No 76. For similar designs and unrigid style on Halaf period seal-pendants of similar shapes cf. ibid.: Nos. 95 (Arpatchiya), 102 (Arpatchiya), 110 (Yarimtepe II), 126 (larger, Yarimtepe II). For irregular designs on pendants of close or identical shape cf. also WFC Nos. 64, 67.



67

**Object:** grey-yellowish serpentine, 16.5x13x5mm. Rounded "pear"-shaped (almost "tear-drop") pendant with rounded suspension loop with cut top. Perforated (3x4mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** deep linear, pointed edge drill; perforated from one side.

**Description:** irregular linear design. Central line with few slightly curved lines crossing it and lines off them.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, early Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape as above WFC No. 66

with slightly wider base. For nearest shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 105, 106, 107 (Arpachiya). Design close to above but with fewer lines and less carefully cut. Cf. almost identical design on long handled "tear-drop" pendant from Arpachiya in Holmes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 242 (Early Halaf) and the very close design on the large seal-pendant of similar shape from Yarimtepe III in Von Wickede 1990: No. 83.



68

**Object:** black serpentine, 11x17.5x6mm. Ovoid pendant, carinated back with rounded suspension loop on top with cut top. Perforated (2.5x3mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill cut.

**Description:** triple line cross within double line lozenge.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape as above WFC No. 67. Common design on Halaf pendants of identical or similar shape and size. Cf. Holmes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 227, 230 (Arpachiya, Early Halaf Period), 313, 314 (slightly narrower pendants, Chagar Bazar, found in Jamdet Nasr level, most probably of Halaf period). For pendant of same shape with similar cross design from Tell Dhahab in the Amuq cf. Mellaart 1975: fig. 95e (Early Halaf Period). Cf. also a variation of this design on a large rhomboid shaped seal-pendant from the early Ubaid period in Von Wickede 1990: No. 211 (Tepe Gawra). Pendants of the "pear" or "tear-drop" shape continue to be produced in early Ubaid and occasional pieces have also been found in later contexts. For similar shape cf. Holmes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 217, 219 (Tepe Gawra, Halaf period), 223 (Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period), 227-8, 230 (Arpachiya, Early Halaf), 304-5 (Chagar Bazar, Late Halaf period); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 134 (Tell Brak B670). A stone pendant of this shape was also found in Choga Mami, Southern Iran, cf. Oates/Oates 1976:65, second on 3rd row (Ubaid period).



69

**Object:** black serpentine, 17x14x5mm. Rounded "tear-drop" pendant with rounded, suspension loop with cut top. Perforated (2.5x3.5mm.) sidewise. Broken on lower left.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear drill work.

**Description:** symmetrical linear design. Two parallel lines

dividing field into three longitudinal fields. Central field divided into three squares with cross in lower square. Side fields with parallel edge strokes.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf or early North Ubaid periods, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 67

For closest shapes in excavated material cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 85, 97, 98, 102 (Arpachiya, Halaf period). Design is of "plane group p1m1" type adjusted to shape in "point group 1" layout. Cf. *ibid.*: Abb. 7, 9. A tripartite longitudinal design adjusted to shape is a common phenomenon on Halaf seal-pendants. In the Halaf period the fields are usually more fully filled with secondary motifs than on the present pendant. For similar designs with two parallel divider lines on seal-pendants cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 137, 146, 150 (Arpachiya, Halaf period), Abb. 32.5 (similar shape, Tepe Gawra, level XVI-XV, early Ubaid period). For the design on small pyramidal seals cf. WFC Nos. 182-3.



10

**Object:** red brown marble with white spots. 13x17x4mm. Round "tear-drop" pendant with rounded top suspension loop. Perforated (2mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear drill work.

**Description:** symmetrical linear design. Two slightly diagonal central lines dividing field into three with two edge lines. Few strokes in various directions in lower side fields and on suspension loop.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf or early North Ubaid periods, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 69 above.



11

**Object:** cream-grey limestone, 9x13x5mm. "Pear" pendant with short, flat, cut top suspension loop. Perforated (2mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** fine linear cut with small size, fairly rounded drill.

**Description:** two parallel central lines with two directional diagonal strokes on sides.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type (shape and design) basically as WFC No. 66, but smaller. For Halaf period "pear" or "tear-drop" pendants of similar small dimensions cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 100 (Arpatchiya), 104 (similar design, Arpatchiya), 115 (Arpatchiya), 116, 117 (Tepe Gawra), 121 (Tell Hasan). For more developed design of same type cf. WFC Nos. 72-4 and on a 4th millennium lenticular seal from Susa A in Amiet 1972: No. 100. Small "pear" like or "tear-drop" shaped pendants of similar shape and size to present piece and to WFC Nos. 76, 88 occur also in Egypt from prehistoric periods to VI Dynasty. The latter pendants are usually decorated with parallel or converging lines and thus resemble the *Cardium Edule* Shell. The prehistoric Egyptian specimens, although undecorated, are almost identical in shape and size to the present piece. Cf. Petrie 1972: Nos. IIIa, c (prehistoric), b, d-1.



12

**Object:** lightly mottled grey-green serpentine, 17x13.5x5.5mm. Elongated, irregularly rounded "tear-drop" pendant with rounded, sloping back, perforated (2mm. wide) sidewise. Broken in middle of perforation and on lower base.

**Technique:** delicate, fine linear drill work with thin edged, sharp drills of two sizes.

**Description:** two parallel central lines with condensed diagonal criss-cross design on one side and diagonal lines with diagonal strokes not crossing lines on other side.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for elongated Halaf pendants of similar shape and dimensions cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 120 (Tell Hasan), 133 (Arpatchiya). All the decorative motifs on this seal, as well as their layout are found on Halaf pendants. Their combination of motifs and mode of execution on this example are of high quality.



13

**Object:** light grey, cream limestone, 13x15x4mm. Rounded pendant with small suspension loop. Perforated (2mm. wide) sidewise. Broken suspension loop, chipped on base.

**Technique:** very beautifully cut with sharp, thin edged drill.

**Description:** four central parallel lines with diagonal lines not crossing on one side and horizontal lines crossed by few diagonal lines on other side.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for nearest shapes in Halaf period excavated material cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 75 (impression, Arpatchiya), 112 (Yarimtepe II). For shape cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 206.1. The layout of the base design is close to that of seal-pendants WFC Nos. 71-2, 74-7 but is less symmetrical. Design is composed of "plane group p111" layout and "plane group p111" layout. Cf. ibid.: Abb. 9.



14

**Object:** black, slightly green serpentine, 14x15x3mm. Thin "tear-drop" pendant with broken suspension. Secondary ancient perforation (3.5x4mm.) on face close to original perforation (2mm. wide) and "acting" as suspension "loop." Both perforations sidewise.

**Technique:** beautiful drill work of two depths; secondary perforation from face to back, probably during manufacture.

**Description:** two parallel central lines with diagonal lines not crossing central lines. Diagonal strokes in other direction on former diagonal lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type similar to above WFC No. 73 with "plane group p111" design in a diagonal angle in side fields. For the design on a seal-pendant of same shape cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 107 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For secondary perforation in same place on face of round pendant, cf. ibid.: No. 131 (Arpatchiya). See also a seal-pendant of same shape from Choga Mami, Southern Iran, in Oates/Oates 1976: 65, third on second row (Ubaid period).



15

**Object:** cream limestone, 12x24.5x7mm. Elongated,

rounded "pear-shaped" pendant with rounded suspension loop. Perforated (3x2.5mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** deep linear cut and shallow incisions.

**Description:** two parallel central lines with diagonal lines not crossing central lines. Diagonal strokes in other direction between former diagonal lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and layout of design as WFC No. 72, design as WFC No. 74 above.



16

**Object:** light grey limestone with black veins, 11x17x6.5mm. Rounded "tear-drop" pendant with elongated, cut-top suspension loop. Perforated (3.3.5mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** shallow incisions of two depths.

**Description:** one central line continuing to suspension loop, with diagonal criss-cross design on one side and diagonal lines with diagonal strokes not crossing lines on other side.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size as Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 101-102 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). Design as WFC No. 160 but covering only lower half of side fields. For Halaf "tear-drop" pendants with central divider line and side design covering part of side fields cf. ibid.; Nos. 104 (Arpatchiya), 115 (Tepe Gawra).



17

**Object:** black-brown serpentine, 8x18x5mm. Elongated "tear-drop" pendant with cut top, semi-suspension "loop" continuous with body of pendant. Perforated (2.5mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** fairly deep, thin linear drill work.

**Description:** central line with diagonal criss-cross design on sides.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-East Iraq (or North Syria-South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape very similar to WFC No. 90, but narrower. For shape in excavated Halaf pendants cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 132 (Gird Banahilk), 133 (Arpatchiya). Pendants of similar elongated shape and side section profile but with thinner top than base were found in the Amuq area in Uruk period contexts. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 252:29 (double criss-cross design, concave-convex transverse section, very thin, Amuq G), 296:17, 18 (undecorated pendants, Amuq H). For an identical design cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 60 (three impressions, Arpatchiya, Halaf period).



18

**Object:** shining black limestone, 14.5x16x7mm. Rounded "tear-drop" pendant with thin rounded suspension loop. Perforation (3mm. wide) sidewise. Broken suspension loop, chipped on base.

**Technique:** two depths of linear drill work; perforated from both sides to slightly narrower hole with very thin ring in center of hole.

**Description:** cruciform design. Line-filled cross in rhomboid frame with additional lines pointed to center on edges.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North Syria-South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for almost identical designs on Halaf "tear-drop" and "pear" shaped pendants of similar size cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 94, 96, 98 (Arpatchiya), 112 (Yarimtepe II). Design close to WFC No. 68. For suspension loop of the same type cf. ibid.; No. 87 (Arpatchiya).



19

**Object:** black-green serpentine, 20x27x6mm. Rhomboid shaped pendant with pointed base and rounded suspension loop. Perforation (2.5x3mm.) sidewise. Broken on top.

**Technique:** very beautiful, regular drill work of two depths.

**Description:** cruciform design. Line-filled cross framed in center of top by triangle.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North Syria -South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for Halaf period rhomboid shaped seal-pendants of identical shape, though of smaller size cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 150 (Arpatchiya), 151 (same design, Arpatchiya). Cf. also the later, larger pendant from Tepe Gawra in *ibid.*: No. 211 (early Ubaid period). Design as above WFC No 78, but more carefully cut. For similar design on handled seals see WFC Nos. 127, 131 (also similar base shape), 132 (also similar base shape), 155.



80

**Object:** black serpentine with patina, 14x26x6mm. Sub-rhomboid pendant with rounded and angular side contours, elongated rounded suspension loop. Comparatively large perforation (4x5mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** linear cut with fairly thin drills of two sizes with very pointed ends.

**Description:** cruciform design. Uneven cross within line-filled double rhomboid frame with filled-lines extended irregularly into center.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period (or Early North Ubaid period), North Iraq, (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for large pendants of similar irregular shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 134, 136 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period), Abb. 32.3 (slightly thicker, cut-top, close design, Tepe Gawra, level XVI-XV, early Ubaid period). Design as above WFC Nos. 78-9, but much coarser and less pedantic.



81

**Object:** black serpentine, 18x14x5mm. Wide rhomboid-shaped seal-pendant with small suspension loop-handle; flat back narrowing toward base; rhomboid base. Handle perforation (3mm.) sidewise in opposite direction to design.

**Technique:** beautiful, even linear drill work of two depths.

**Description:** sub-cruciform design. Central line with diagonal line off it on both sides reaching corners, with additional diagonal line on one side; filled with radiating strokes toward center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq, (or North Syria - South- East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** no seal-pendant of identical shape and size has been found in excavations. However, see the very similar example in Von Wickede 1990: No. 143 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period) and the close shapes in *ibid.*: No. 140 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period) and WFC No. 87. Design the same as WFC Nos. 78-9, but adjusted to shape.



82

**Object:** dark grey-brown serpentine with patina(?), 14x17.5x5mm. Triangular seal-pendant with cut-top suspension loop and angular base corners. Perforated (3mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** linear cut of two depths; perforation from both sides narrowing to very small hole.

**Description:** cruciform design. Cross with "leaf" design in quadrants.

**Date/ Origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq, (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for identical shape among excavated Halaf period seal-pendants cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 148 (similar cruciform design, Arpatchiya) and the close shaped piece in *ibid.*: No. 147 (Arpatchiya). Similar designs of "symmetrical point group mm2" are typical of Halaf glyptic. Cf. *ibid.*: Tab. 4. Design is close to WFC Nos. 78-81 above.



83

**Object:** black serpentine, 20x4x20mm. Thin triangular shaped seal-pendant with rounded corners narrowing toward thin top; thin, narrow rectangular base with rounded ends - almost elongated oval base. Small perforation (2mm.) very close to top, sidewise.

**Technique:** deep linear drill work.

**Description:** sides B, D (narrow): five or six parallel lines extending to sides A and C. Side A (wide): two diagonal lines on one side, third - on other side, not meeting. Empty center. Small diagonal lines on edge continued from sides B, D and base. Side C (wide): divider line off center with two diagonal lines on sides and additional diagonal on one side. Few strokes below. Small diagonal lines on edges continued from sides B, D and base. Base: five parallel lines extending to sides A and C.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for identically shaped Halaf period pendants with similar linear and triangular designs cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 141 (same location of perforation, decorated on both sides, Çavı Tarlası), 142 (Arpatchiya), 144 (same location of perforation, Arpatchiya). Cf. also Von der Osten 1957: No. 342 (tripartite base, deep-grooved side, design close to present pendant's side A).



84

**Object:** black-brown serpentine, 12x15.5x4mm. Triangular shaped pendant with some rounded corners, undecorated sub-rectangular base. Two perforations: one near upper top on short axis (sideways) (2x2.5mm.); secondary: near base on long axis from narrow sides (3mm.). Small hole in center of side B, not carried through base.

**Technique:** deep linear drill work.

**Description:** side A: grid criss-cross design with one diagonal line. Side B: irregular criss-cross design, diagonal lines and two small crosses.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape as above WFC No. 83, but smaller.



85

**Object:** grey, white diorite or gneisse, 15.5x24x5.5mm. Ovoid "tear-drop" shaped, (almost "heart" shaped) pendant with rounded suspension loop. Perforation from front to

back (3mm.), in same direction of design.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size and thin drills.

**Description:** irregular linear design. Grid cross design with some diagonal lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for same location of perforation on a similarly shaped large pendant cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 127 (more regular diagonal criss-cross design, Tepe Gawra, Halaf period). Cf. also *ibid.* Nos. 125 (similar designs and size, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period), 130 (similar designs and size, Tepe Gawra, Halaf period). For design on smaller "tear-drop" shaped seal-pendants cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 134 (Tell Brak B670, probably of Halaf period); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 206.1. Comparatively rare seal material for earlier prehistoric glyptic. As seal material, diorite is more commonly used in 4th-3rd millennium glyptic, cf. WFC Nos. 255, 450, 458



86

**Object:** red-brown limestone, 17x22x5.5mm. Oval "tear-drop" pendant with rounded top suspension loop, almost flat back, slightly convex face. Broken on top of suspension loop. Perforated (3mm.), sidewise.

**Technique:** very deep linear drill work cutting side contours.

**Description:** two parallel central lines crossed or touched by few horizontal lines on one side and short radiating strokes on edge.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for pendant of identical shape and design (though less deeply cut) cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 131 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period).



87

**Object:** black shining serpentine, 9.5x8.5x6mm. Wide triangular pendant with one curved corner, with small suspension loop with cut top. Almost "pear"-like perforation (3x3.5mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** shallow, thin linear cut with sharp drill.

**Description:** linear design. Central line with diagonal criss-cross design on sides not touching central line.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similar shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 143 (Arpachiya, Early Halaf?). For close design on a similarly small seal-pendant cf. ibid., No. 104 (Arpachiya, Halaf period).



88

**Object:** black or dark blue serpentine, 13.5x12x5mm. Wide irregular "tear-drop" pendant with rounded suspension loop. Elongated perforation (2.5x4mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** linear drill cut; perforation began on one side with two joined drilled holes.

**Description:** linear design. Curved line with small irregular line above on suspension loop and three strokes below.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf or early North Ubaid periods, North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 95, 96, 97 (Arpachiya, Halaf period), Abb. 32.2, 4 (Tepe Gawara, level XVI-XV, early Ubaid period). For similar irregular design with few lines see ibid.: No. 116 (Tepe Gawara, Halaf period).



89

**Object:** light blue, yellowish and brown veins chalcedony with white layer on base (agate?), 13x19x8mm. Elongated "tear-drop" pendant. Perforated (4mm. wide) sidewise. Broken below perforation.

**Technique:** thin linear drill cut through white layer; perforation from both sides narrowing to small hole.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design with vertical crossing lines and small drilled hole in center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape and size cf. especially Von Wickede 1990: No. 133 (Arpachiya, Halaf

period). For the "plane group p6mm" design (ibid.: Abb. 9) on Halaf period seals and pendants cf. WFC Nos. 90, 147; Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig 101:2 (loop-handled seal, First Mixed Range, Halaf Period?). For large "pear" shaped pendant with small drilled dot in center of criss-cross design cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 127 (Tepe Gawra, Halaf period). For Halaf period or early Ubaid period chalcedony seals cf. ibid.: Nos. 187 (Ras Shamra, Halaf period), 206 (Ras Shamra, Halaf period), 220 (Tepe Gawra, level XVI, early Ubaid period, but could be earlier. Cf. also chalcedony seals WFC Nos. 98-9 (Halaf period).



90

**Object:** black serpentine with grey patina, 12.5x29x5mm. Elongated "tear-drop" pendant with semi-suspension "loop" on back continuous with body of pendant. Perforated (3.5x4mm.) sidewise.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill work.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design with vertical crossing lines comparatively widely spaced lines with some additional diagonal lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and design as WFC No. 89 above, but thinner and with deeper and more organized design cut.



91

**Object:** opaque black-brown serpentine with red veins, 16x21x8mm. Elongated oval shaped pendant with carinated back, oval base. Large elongated perforation (5mm. wide) near thin top, on short axis through face. Broken on top of perforation and on lower right.

**Technique:** deep and fairly deep linear drill work.

**Description:** irregular linear design. Double central line, incomplete diagonal criss-cross design on right, diagonal and horizontal lines in various directions on left

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period,

North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for close shape, position and size of perforation cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 127 (Tepe Gawra, Halaf period), 131 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). In their shapes these pieces are also close to undecorated Amuq G and H pendants. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Figs. 252:24 (Amuq G), 296:19 (Amuq H). As seen above this symmetrical layout with central divider is very common on Halaf period seal-pendants of various shapes represented in different degrees of competence and precision. For a stylistically close example cf. *ibid.*: No. 126 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period).



92

**Object:** deep yellow-brown limestone, 9x18x3mm. Thin, elongated ovoid pendant with small protruding rounded top (reminiscent of suspension "loop"). Small perforation (2.5mm.) near top, on short side.

**Technique:** shallow, faint, linear drill work.

**Description:** central line with parallel faint line and diagonal lines off them ("leaf" design).

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium (or later), Halaf period (or later), North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 64, but with flatter back and to Von Wickede 1990: No. 108 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For an identical faint, shallow design on a small pendant with suspension loop cf. *ibid.*: No. 104 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). The motif is common on Ubaid and Uruk periods seals. However, decorated pendant-seals of this shape were not found in later Ubaid and Uruk periods levels in North Syria and North Mesopotamia sites. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: 24, note 1; Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. In its shape and place of perforation, the present pendant is close to some Amuq E and Amuq H undecorated pendants, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 166: 16, 19 (Amuq E), 296:18 (Amuq H). A variation of the motif, but without the central divider, occurs on more than 100 limestone, shell and faience "sacred tree amulets" of similar sizes with a suspension loop, sharper contour and deeply cut design found at Tell Brak's Eye-Temple platform and dated by Mallowan to the Earlier Jamdet Nasr period, c. 3200 B.C. Cf. Mallowan 1947: 118-9 (for various interpretations), Pl. XVII, Nos. 1-4. The present pendant and WFC No. 93 are earlier examples of this decorative motif in the same tradition.



93

**Object:** grey limestone, 10x17x4mm. Thin, elongated ovoid pendant (close to banana shape) with very small perforation (1.5mm.) near top, on face, on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with rounded drill with pointed end.

**Description:** side A: central line with diagonal lines off it. Side B: central line crossed by parallel vertical lines.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium (or later), Halaf period (or later), North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and side A very close to WFC No. 92 above. For identical shape, size and perforation cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 108 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For the design on side A, cf. WFC Nos. 104, 108, 440, 441 (boot or foot-shaped seals), 437; Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 173.1 (pyramid-shaped seal). For the "plane group p4mm" design on side B on Halaf impressions and pendants cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 9, Nos. 68 (impression, Arpatchiya), 131 (Arpatchiya).



94

**Object:** dark grey, transparent smoky quartz (probably chalcedony), 14.5x11x5mm. "Pear"-shaped, three dimensional pendant with small perforation on top of wide side, as if small suspension loop. Shape close to fish-like oval pendant-seal. Irregular oval base. Small perforation (2mm.) from face to back, on short axis.

**Technique:** fine, linear cut with thin edged drill.

**Description:** double criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape has no identical parallel in excavated material. For similar "plane p4mm design" as the only decorative motif on Halaf "tear-drop" or "pear" shaped impressions and pendant-seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 69, 70, 71 (impressions, Arpatchiya), 97 (pendant, Arpatchiya), 122 (pendant, Gird Banahilk), 132 (pendant, Gird Banahilk), 133 (pendant, Arpatchiya). Cf. also the same design on an elongated pendant-seal with curved contour in Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 252:29 (found at Amuq G level, but of much earlier date).



95

**Object:** black-brown flint, 13x12x4mm. Thin, straight angle, sub-square shaped pendant with semi-gable top, convex face, flat back. Perforation (4x3mm.) near top on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill work; wide, irregular perforation from two sides narrowing to small hole in center.

**Description:** three lines of different heights, crossed by one vertical line with two crosses and strokes. Design not covering all face.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for a similarly shaped seal-pendant with suspension loop and diagonal criss-cross design not covering the whole face cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 149 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For straight angle pendants with suspension loop decorated with tripartite vertical layout cf. ibid.: Nos. 146, 147 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For the material in use in early prehistoric glyptic cf. WFC Nos. 4, 34, 120.

the Amuq area cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 166:7 (stone bead, Amuq E), 184:3 (baked clay pendant [?], Amuq F). A slightly larger, uneven marble tabloid occurs in Susa A. However, its perforation is not in the center but near the thinner edge and an indistinct figure decorates its base. Cf. Amiet 1972: No. 151.

43



96

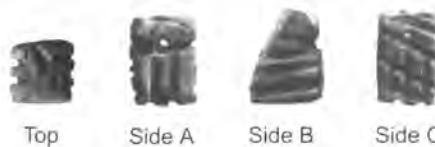
**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 13.5x14x4.5mm. Straight angle pendant (almost uneven "tabloid" pendant) with thicker top and sharp, thinner lower edge with sharp corners, flat square back and base. Perforated (4mm.) through center of base, on short axis during manufacture. Chipped in one corner.

**Technique:** fine, delicate, linear drill work; perforation drilled from both sides.

**Description:** cross with central drilled hole through base. Double-cross (star) in two upper quadrants, diagonal divider with diagonal strokes off it in two lower quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf or early Ubaid (Ubaid 3) periods, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for straight angle seal-pendants with suspension loop cf. above WFC No. 95. For a thin square Ceramic Neolithic stamp seal with broken handle and perforation through center of base cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 46 (Tell Matarra, Hassuna-Samara period). For similar layout with the same decorative designs on larger pendants cf. ibid.: Nos. 124 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period), 138 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period) and on other Halaf seals cf. WFC Nos. 129, 141. For an almost identical pendant with central perforated hole cf. ibid.: No. 210 (Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). For later, undecorated pieces of similar shape from



97

**Object:** white limestone, 9x8.5x12mm. Uneven, truncated sub-pyramidal seal-pendant with straight angles. Small perforation (2mm.) in center of groove below top on, short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear cut continuing on sides to form rugged edges.

**Description:** top: cross continuing on sides. Groove on base below perforation hole, not meeting on sides A+C. Side A: two parallel, vertical lines continuing on base and side C. Side B: three parallel, diagonal lines continuing on side D. Side C: criss-cross design of vertical lines and one set of diagonal lines continuing from sides B+D. Side D: three parallel diagonal lines continuing to side C. Base: two parallel lines.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf or early Ubaid periods, North Iraq (or North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for a seal-pendant of very similar shape, size, design and linear cut cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 158 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period). A similar, but much larger piece was found in an early Ubaid context in Ras al-Amra. See also the irregularly shaped pendant from Arpatchiya decorated with lines continuing from sides to top and to other sides in Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 232 (Early Halaf Period).

## 2. Pendant-seal amulets with geometric and/or zoomorphic designs



98

**Object:** light whitish-blue, dark brown, cloudy brown banded agate, 30x33x16mm. Irregular triangular pendant-seal with rounded corners and suspension loop, thick convex back narrowing to suspension loop. Broken suspension loop, perforated (3mm. wide) sidewise. Bought from Haj Jamil Abuldel Dallal, Jerusalem.

**Technique:** beautiful, linear, thin edged drill work; wider drill work with blunt edge drill for animal; perforated from both sides to narrowing hole with very thin ring in center of hole.

**Description:** geometric and zoomorphic design. Double criss-cross design in center forming double crosses in squares. Divider line continuing to upper corner of suspension loop, with parallel strokes off it. Same design on lower corner with parallel strokes on its sides and near third corner. Large quadruped (mouflon or wild ass) below suspension loop, facing right. The animal has: wide body; long neck thrust forward; thin ears pointed to front above elongated head; short tail; four legs.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for large seal-pendants of similar or identical shape decorated with variations of the same combined geometric designs, however, without an animal cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 124 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period), 137, 138, 139, 140 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period), Abb. 32.6 (Tepe Gawra, levels XVI-XV, early Ubaid period). Pendants and seal-amulets were frequently kept as heirlooms and are found in later contexts. The present piece, as well as Von Wickede's 1990: Abb. 32.6 pendant could well be examples of Halaf seal-pendants thus kept. Cf. ibid.: 93, note 2. Two quadrupeds of identical shape and cut standing in "symmetrical point group m" layout are engraved on the only excavated large "tear-drop" pendant with zoomorphic design from the Halaf period. There, the animals are placed on an empty background with no geometric designs near by. Cf. ibid.: Abb. 7, No. 83 (side B: few lines, Yarimtepe III, early Halaf period). No excavated example from the Halaf or early Ubaid periods shows a combination of zoomorphic and geometric motifs similar to that of the present agate seal-pendant. This WFC specimen is a beautiful example of the way Halaf period glyptic craftsmen introduced zoomorphic motifs into their rich geometric designs. Hard stones, including hematite, jadite, nephrite, quartzite, cornelian and chalcedony were used in the Halaf period alongside the much more common softer serpentine and marble/limestone stones. For the material in Halaf and early Ubaid glyptic see WFC Nos. 89 (with lists) 99. According to Gorelick/Gwinnett 1992: 58, Fig. 1: "In Chalcolithic Mesopotamia, stamp seals, (were) all of soft stones" and no harder stones, that is of Mohs hardness 4-6 or 7, were known in pre-Ubaid glyptic. The present stone, as well as other pieces in the WFC and in excavated material show this to be a mistaken conclusion.



As Seal



As Pendant

99

**Object:** white, light brown-grey, red-orange, light blue layered agate, 27x23x10mm. Large, elongated pendant-seal, with uneven back and remnants of central (ridge or loop) handle, right face of base slightly concave. Perforation (4mm. wide) below broken handle. Present ancient perforation near apex in pendant fashion (5x6mm.), on short axis -secondary. Half broken. Original shape either handled seal with low sloping back and oval, sub-rectangular base with rounded corners, later changed into "pear" shaped, straight angle seal-pendant, or, and less likely, original shape "pear" shaped or triangular shaped seal-pendant.

**Technique:** two depths of cut with very different drills: wide, blunt drill in center forming deep wide cut; thin, pointed edged drill for linear design. Geometric and zoomorphic design. "Fish" or part of "animal" cut with deep wide drill across center and on right of perforation. Part of original design.

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross on right and few crossed lines on left. Fish or part of animal.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** material as WFC No. 98 above. Present shape and present position of perforation in pendant fashion close to above and especially to some excavated Halaf pendants. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 127 (Tepe Gawra), 135 (Arpatchiya). The wide cutting style of the "animal" in the center of the decorated face of the present piece recalls the wide cutting style of the human figures found in a Hassuna-Samarra impression, which, however, is more angular than on this specimen, as well as the Halaf period animal on a circular base handled seal from Yarimtepe II. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 53 (impression, Tell as-Sawwan), 82 (handled seal). This large agate seal was probably too treasured to be left unused after its break, due mainly to its rare, hard stone and beautiful colors. Thus, when broken (from use) it was changed into a seal-pendant and redecorated by a less skillful hand. For the problematic relationships between seals and pendants and the question of their common or diverse origin cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: 24; Von Wickede 1990: 255.



100

**Object:** cream-light grey serpentine, 18x14x5mm. Wide "pear" shaped pendant with small suspension loop-handle continuous with face; back narrowing toward sharp base. Handle perforation (3mm.) on short axis (sidewise) in opposite direction to design. Purchased from a Homs dealer, said to come from Tell Halaf area.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill cut of two depths and widths.

**Description:** open circle ending in straight line in center with small diagonal line on its sides. Elongated, slightly curved vertical line with many parallel lines off it, below. Linear or open-winged bird(?) design.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf or early Ubaid periods, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 110, 111 (Arpachiyah, Halaf period), 215 (Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). Motif may represent a schematic depiction of an open-winged bird. In the Halaf period rare zoomorphic designs occur on large seal-pendants. No zoomorphic depiction is found on small "pear" or "tear-drop" shaped Halaf period excavated seal-pendants. In comparison, simple schematic depictions of animals represented with linear and/or small depressions are comparatively numerous on seal-pendants of similar shape and size from the early Ubaid period. Cf. ibid., Nos. 221, 222, 223 (Tepe Gawra, levels XIII, XII, XV, early Ubaid period). Homes-Fredericq deciphers the motif on a small irregular shaped impression from Tepe Gawra as representing a "branch", it may however, represent an open-winged bird. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 7 (Tepe Gawra, level XVIII, early Ubaid period).



101

**Object:** cream-white, red, pink-brown limestone, 19x18x8mm. Wide "tear-drop"-shaped seal-pendant with small suspension-loop on top, sloping back, flat "tear-drop" shaped base. Perforation (3mm. wide) on short axis. Broken on back below suspension-loop and chipped on lower back side and base.

**Technique:** fairly deep broad linear cut with drilled dots at each end with rounded drill with round end and shallower linear cut with thin drill.

**Description:** human figure(?) seated(?), facing base, holding long staff in outstretched right hand. Left hand ending in three-prongs lowered in front of body. One straight leg with linear foot facing base, other leg bent with linear foot in same direction. Or, quadruped(?) facing left. Large empty field above.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid period, North Iraq (or adjacent areas).

**Discussion/comparanda:** one of the common seal-pendant shapes in the Halaf and early Ubaid periods. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Tab. 3; WFC, Nos. 66, 87. For the absence of zoomorphic motifs from the repertoire of small seal-pendants in Halaf period glyptic cf. WFC No. 101 above. Engraving style and depiction of one animal in "point group 1" layout while leaving rest of field empty is a typical feature of early Ubaid "pear" or wide "tear-drop" seal-pendants decoration. Cf. ibid., Nos. 221, 222, 223 (Tepe Gawra). Human figures are not depicted on these Tepe Gawra seal-pendants. The character, pose and engraving style of the human figure represented on large "tear-drop" shaped seal-pendant from the early Ubaid period differs from that of the present "human figure". However, it too has prong-like hands. Cf. ibid., No. 227 (Tell al 'Uwaili, south Iraq). The differentiation in size and stylistic features between the present piece and the seal-pendant from Tell al 'Uwaili probably result from their geographic distance and reflect two different glyptic production centers.

### 3. Anthropomorphic and zoomorphic pendant-amulet-seals, amulets, low handled seals, discs, sub-discs and odd shaped pieces



Profile      Front      Base

102

**Object:** black serpentine, 12x11x3.5mm. "Hand"-shaped(?) or straight angle amulet-seal-pendant, irregular sub-trapezoid, thin, sharp top(?), ovoid base. Grooved above base. Small perforation (2.5mm.) above base groove, on short axis.

**Technique:** thin, linear drill.

**Description:** back and front: parallel lines on both sides above perforation. Base: diagonal criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or North-East Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** no identically shaped seal-pendant has been found in excavations. However, for similarly odd-shaped small amulet-pendants from Arpachiyah cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 232 (identical top and decoration, Halaf period), 244 (close shape, same decoration, Early Halaf Period); Von Wicked 1990: No. 146 (larger, close shape, Halaf period). For hand shaped pieces cf. WFC No. 103 below.



## 103

**Object:** dark grey-greenish serpentine, 10x11x3mm. Triangular shaped amulet-seal-pendant. Flat back and face, with two notches on thin, sharp base forming a three petalled "blossom" or claw (bird's or large cat's) shaped pendant. Broken below small suspension-loop, perforated (2mm.) on short axis (sidewise). Bought in Syria.

**Technique:** beautiful, delicate linear cut with thin drill.

**Description:** many hatched parallel diagonal lines on "claw's fingers" with four parallel lines on top.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq, (or North-East Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** hand-shaped seal-pendants begin to appear in the Middle Halaf period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 110, 255, Nos. 57, 58, 59 9 (impressions, Arpatchiya), 88 (Arpatchiya), 159, 160 (Arpatchiya). They usually have a more curved contour than the present piece and most are more obviously a human hand. For similar linear layout on a foot-shaped seal-pendant cf. ibid.: No. 161 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). Cf. also Von der Osten 1957: No. 342 (larger triangular seal-pendant, grooved side, different linear design).



## 104

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 15x9x6.5mm. Foot-shaped with small loop-top handle ("leg") on one edge of back, "growing" directly from wider edge of back and gradually slanting to other edge of back; sub-ovoid base with one straight side and round corners. Broken above perforation top. Perforation (3mm. wide), on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin drill; perforation from both sides reaching back.

**Description:** central line with six diagonal lines off it on each side.

**Date/origin:** 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Neolithic (Amuq A or B horizons?) or Halaf period, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to Ceramic Neolithic foot-shaped seal WFC No. 13, but smaller and rounder and without a pyramidal lower back. Back, handle and base shape of present piece are close also to Von Wicked 1990: No. 34 (Tell Dahab, Neolithic, unstratified context). Cf. also ibid.: No. 175 (foot-shaped seal, higher back and location of perforation, Arpatchiya, Halaf period); WFC No. 133 (identical base shape). For "leaf" design or

similar designs on boot or foot-shaped seals cf. ibid.: 91, Abb. 301 (straight back foot-seal with slanting "leg" top, elongated ovoid base, central divider with parallel and slightly diagonal lines off it, probably found in secondary material level, Neolithic era); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 172.2 and below. For identical "leaf"-like design on a Halaf period "pear"-like pendant cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 104 (Arpatchiya).



## 105

**Object:** orange-cream marble, 29.5x16.5x11.5mm. Foot shaped, small, thin ridge handle ("leg") "growing" near one end of back with small curve and slanting away from center of back. Handle broken on top near base of original perforation (2.5mm. wide), on short axis during manufacture(?). Back with rounded contours, thinning toward "finger's" edge, away from handle. Slightly convex, elongated sub-ovoid base with one almost straight short side, rounded corners. Large secondary perforation (5.5x6mm) dug on back on short axis.

**Technique:** linear and curved cut with medium size drill; secondary perforation from both sides slightly narrowing toward center.

**Description:** back: four short parallel lines on end of foot-fingers, continuous from base. Base: central diamond filled with smaller diamond cut in center by divider forming two joined angles. Central diamond connected on each side to three open-ended joined angles opening to frame. Each angle filled with smaller angle in same direction. All within oval linear border with one straight side. Four short parallel lines off straight side of border-fingers, continuous to back.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, (end of Halaf period), early Ubaid period, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** handle shape and location on back derives from Neolithic foot-shaped seals. Cf. WFC No. 13. For the connection between the Neolithic foot-shaped seals decorated with criss-cross base designs and the Halaf period foot-shaped seal-pendant-amulets decorated on their side face and the occasional Halaf period foot-shaped seal decorated on base cf. Von Wicked 1990: 255, Tab 3. The present piece's thin and small size handle are common features for both Halaf and early Ubaid periods small, round and square based "button" seals. Seal-amulets with elongated sub-ovoid or sub-rectangular bases and thin, small handles placed in center of back disappear by the beginning of the later Ubaid period while squarish based seals with similar small back handles occur only in the Halaf

and early Ubaid periods. The closest parallels to the sub-ovoid base shape of this piece are also found among Halaf period seals or early Ubaid impressions. Cf. *Ibid.*: Nos. 173 (sub-conoid, Yarimtepe II), 177 (small loop handled seal, Yarimtepe II), 213 (impression, early Ubaid period). For a similarly shaped seal cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 170.1 (loop handle, flat base, criss-cross base design). The earliest parallel to the convex base of this seal is the unique large Halaf period "button" seal. For the much more common use of convex based "button" seals during the Ubaid period, however in a differential spread between Northern and Southern glyptic centers cf. Von Wickede 1990: 256-257. The later Ubaid period convex "button" seals and the South-Iranian Uruk period "button" seals are with round bases. Continuous, plane type layouts with open-ended sub-diamond motifs with drilled dots in each sub-diamond are incised on bases of large clay "pintaderas" from Catal Huyuk VIB-II, Neolithic era, first half of 6th millennium. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 24.1-5. The diamond-rhomboid motif occurs for the first time in Halaf glyptic usually as a multiframed centralized motif filled with cross and/or radiating strokes on top of a criss-cross layout or as two joined triangles. Cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 73 (round impression, Arpatchiya), 94, 96, 98 ((pendants, Arpatchiya), 112 (Yarimtepe II), 175 (sub-conoid, foot-shaped seal, rectangular base with rounded corners, close to elongated ovoid, single diamond filled with parallel lines, Arpatchiya), 196 (loop-handled square seal, Yarimtepe II), 205 (low handled round seal, Ras Shamra). The nearest and identical designs to that of the present foot-shaped seal occur on large low handled early Ubaid period seals. Cf. WFC No. 155; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 17 (sloping ridge handle, rectangular base, two encircled drillings, bored through, set in linear panels above identical design in linear, rectangular border, Al Mina, level one). The above Ashmolean seal has close affinities with early Ubaid seals and should be dated to that period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 232 (Tell Kurdu). Cf. also *ibid.*: No. 217 (rhomboid impression, similar diamond layout, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). According to Von Wickede no excavated foot-shaped seal from the Ubaid period was found. Thus, he can only assume a missing link between the Halaf period foot-shaped seals and the more naturalistic foot-shaped seals of the EBIII period (*ibid.*: 255). The present foot-shaped seal belongs to this ancient chain of foot-shaped glyptic pieces and is probably an example of the missing link in that chain dating from the early Ubaid period.



106

**Object:** brown serpentine, 11.5x10x8mm. Hand or animal's (calf's?) hoof seal-pendant (or stylized female figure seal-pendant), flat oval decorated side with small triangular on base, rounded back ending below broken

"neck-leg" top on one side. Broken and chipped top perforation (3mm. wide?), on short axis, chipped on base.

**Technique:** fine linear cut with thin drills.

**Description:** back: deep vertical groove in center continuing thin base angle cut and diagonal grooves around top - "neck-leg". Base: three parallel central lines with tiny strokes between them and many longer diagonal strokes off central dividers. One line crossing central dividers near top.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape similar to a variety of mainly middle Halaf period pendant seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 159 (hand shaped with similar base notch and groove around top, Arpatchiya), 161 (leg shaped, Arpatchiya), 162 (similar base notch and general shape, loose criss-cross and few strokes design). Cf. also WFC Nos. 112-3. The appearance among Halaf glyptic of three-dimensional bull or cow seal-amulets with base decorations of central divider and strokes off it allows us to assume the presumed existence of hoof-shaped seal-pendant-amulets as part of the overall, diversified glyptic manufacture in that culture. Cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 163 (Arpatchiya), 164 (Gogjali), 165 (Chagar Bazar). For similar base designs on pendant-seals cf. WFC Nos. 69, 71-5. For the motif on later pieces cf. also Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191.3 (small, low gable, Amuq F); Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 159 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level X, Uruk period), 224 (pendant, Tepe Gawra, Ubaid period).



107

**Object:** lightly mottled grey serpentine, 16x13x12mm. Animal's (calf's) hoof shaped seal (or stylized female figure) with rounded back diagonally growing into short, thick diagonal "leg-neck" - handle on one side and diagonally cut handle top; wide oval base. Small perforation (2.5mm.) near handle top, on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut of two depths with medium and thin size drills with pointed ends.

**Description:** back: continuous groove in center of diagonal foot's back and handle, groove surrounding base of "leg-neck" handle between perforation holes. Base: central line with row of regular and irregular crosses with small line dividers between them off it.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period (or slightly later), North Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for foot-shaped seals with some similar characteristics cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 30.5 (similar diagonal cut-top, central divider with straight and slightly diagonal strokes off it, Tulul al-Talatat, Neolithic, out of context); Buchanan/Moorey 1990: No. 22 (identical thick shape with diagonal cut-top, angle-filled

cross base design, no back divider, toward end of 5th millennium, bought Antioch); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 172.3. A calf's hoof shaped pendant-seal with tall "leg," decorated with simple criss-cross design and small strokes on front of foot's back (one central line crossed by two lines) was found in Clazomene, near Smyrna, Turkey, cf. Delaporte 1920; Pl. 60, fig. 1a-b (G.1). For a thick, smaller pendant-seal with back divider cf. WFC No. 106 above. The base design is a variation of "point group 1m" layout characteristic of Ceramic Neolithic glyptic combined with the typically Halaf and early Ubaid double cross "plane group p1m" layout. Similar adaptations are found on Halaf period pendant-seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 164 (three dimensional cow head pendant-seal, Gogjali). Cf. Also Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 10 (button, ovoid base, Tepe Gawra, level XV, Ubaid I period); WFC No. 20 (more regular).



108

**Object:** white gypsum(?) with grey and black veins, 13.5x4x9mm. Hand-shaped (or foot-shaped) seal(?)-pendant-amulet with rounded contours and very short "thumb" (or "leg"), thin elongated oval "base" or side curving at one edge. Comparatively large perforation in corner of "hand" (or "heel") (3.5x2.5mm.), on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with thin drills with pointed ends; round perforation from both sides slightly narrowing in center.

**Description:** central line with few straight lines off it.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, middle(?) Halaf period, North Iraq (Arpatchiya horizon).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for the presumed connections between the production of gypsum bowls and the earliest seals and seal impressions in later Aceramic Neolithic cf. Von Wickede 1990: 51-53, 91. For gypsum as seal material of late prehistoric seals (or modern fakes) cf. WFC Nos. 440, 470. Shape probably a schematic representation of a hand with very short thumb. In this interpretation the linear design is on the elongated side of the hand. However, the piece may also represent a diminutive foot-shaped seal-pendant. In this case the depiction is cut on the foot's base. Anthropomorphic hand-shaped seal-pendant-amulets appear in the middle Halaf period but are not continued into the early Ubaid period. For impressions of similar small size and shape or for identical impressions of schematized hands with a sticking thumb cf. Von Wickede 1990: 255, Nos. 54, 55, 56 (multi, undecorated hand-shaped-impressions, Arpatchiya), 57 (two decorated impressions, "fingers" with continuous

band layout of "leaf"-like motif, Arpatchiya), 58 (two decorated impressions, one with continuous "leaf"-like motif on "fingers", Arpatchiya), 59 (hand-shaped decorated impression, Arpatchiya). For perforated hand shaped decorated seal-pendants cf. ibid. Nos. 159 (slightly larger, Tepe Gawra), 160 (similar size, Tepe Gawra). For foot-shaped seal-pendant of similar shape to present item, though slightly larger cf. ibid.; No. 154 (decorated on sides and perforated, Gogjali). For the motif on another Halaf period impression cf. ibid.; No. 64 (elongated ovoid, with additional small drilled dots and star motif, Arpatchiya).

109



**Object:** shining black serpentine, 18.5x15x5.5mm. Wide oval human face, or mask in "wide" pear-like shaped amulet-pendant, flat back facet, raised convex sculptured front facet above groove. Broken suspension loop in center of top. Broken in middle of perforation (2.5mm: wide, 14mm. length), on short axis, sidewise

**Technique:** fine encircled drilled dots with rounded end drill and wider linear cut with medium and thin drills.

**Description:** stylized human face or mask. Encircled dotted eyes, straight nose in very low relief, large mouth or face line-groove and four small radiating strokes on outer edge contour of front facet below "mouth" (schematic "beard?" or decorative device).

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and encircled drilled dots typical of Halaf period glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 104 (three encircled drilled dots, Arpatchiya), 104 (shape, Arpatchiya), 119 (line dividing circle and encircled drilled dot and strokes, Tepe Gawra). For four encircled drilled dots cf. also ibid.; No. 214 (rhomboid pearl, early Ubaid period). No excavated pendant-amulet or seal-pendant-amulet representing a human mask from the Halaf period has been found in excavations. However, amulets and seal-amulets in the shape of human masks are known from the Neolithic era. Cf. ibid.: Abb. 19.1 (amulet, Jericho, Aceramic Neolithic era, PPNB), 2 (amulet, Tell al-Murabit, Aceramic Neolithic era, PPNB), No. 28 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq, Ceramic Neolithic era). The present piece is to be seen as a continuation and development of that ancient tradition adapted to the Halaf period glyptic way of representation and shape. The appearance of three-dimensional bucraenia of an even higher relief than the

present piece and of stylized anthropomorphic figures or limbs among the Halaf period glyptic strengthens our conviction that the present human face or mask is an example of the missing Halaf period glyptic expression in that ancient chain.



110

**Object:** black serpentine, 20x17x6mm. "Bird-like" or stylized female shaped amulet-pendant. Irregular straight angle trapezoid with "M"-shaped contour in central lower part and comparatively long oval suspension loop handle. Small perforation (2.5mm.) near top of handle, sidewise.

**Technique:** fairly shallow cut on side A; deep notches and grooves with large angle edged drill on side B; fine cut base lines; perforation evenly cut from both sides and polished in round circle around hole (circle and perforation: 6mm.).

**Description:** side A: linear design. Two diagonal lines from sides of handle to top of "M", crossed by three parallel lines. Diagonal strokes on handle and lower "body" with few crossing strokes on one side. Side B: deep diagonal lines continuing upper ends of "M"-emphasizing "wings" or "feet" from body. Base: diagonal lines continuing to side B - birds's wings or feet?

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** no identical pendant has been published. In its shape the present pendant, although more zoomorphic, recalls the shapes of Halaf period triangular pendants and small handled seals with angular and triangular bases, as well as the notched anthropomorphic pendants. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 143, 147, 148 (Arpatchiya), 162 (Yarimtepe), 167 169, 170, 171 (Arpatchiya); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 247. Zoomorphic bird pendants are also known from the Halaf period. Cf. the schematised duck pendants from Arpatchiya in Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 248-9. The combined linear design on this pendant is very common in Halaf glyptic.



111

**Object:** lightly mottled grey-greenish serpentine, 13x20x5mm. Stylised female or "female-male" amulet-pendant. Rounded, sloping back, irregularly shaped:

triangle with rounded corners and two notches on sides (stylized upper female head and body or phallus) above trapezoid with larger notch in center and round corners (stylised female hips and legs). Flat base of same shape. Perforated (2.5mm. wide) on top of "stylized upper female body" sidewise. Broken in center of perforation. Suspension cord can also be tied around notches.

**Technique:** two depths linear drill work; drilled holes with round edged drill; perforation from both sides narrowing to very small hole in center.

**Description:** back: deep linear cuts continuing notches and emphasizing body parts. Base: vertical line connecting two upper notches and dividing field into two parts (waist line or belt?); two large drilled holes in center of each part, connected by line; in upper triangle: four small diagonal lines pointing to drilled hole; in lower trapezoid: central line from lower notch crossing lower drilled hole, two diagonal lines and parallel strokes on sides.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** fertility amulet-pendant. For pendants and low loop handled seals compound from two parts, one of which is a triangle cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 169, 170, 171 (Arpatchiya). The lower part of the present piece recalls excavated and other female amulet-pendants. Cf. ibid.: 111, No. 162 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period) and WFC Nos. 311, 487. For a phallus shaped amulet-pendant cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 236 (Arpchiyah, Early Halaf Period). Drilled holes, encircled or plain, are part of the Halaf glyptic repertoire. For the design of two drilled holes divided or connected by line on Halaf pendants cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 119 (Tepe Gawra), 140 (Arpatchiya).



112

**Object:** black serpentine, 8x12x5mm. "Tear-drop" shaped, stylized female amulet-pendant with large notch in center of thin base and comparatively long suspension loop. Perforated (3mm.) sideways in opposite direction to face design.

**Technique:** shallow, thin linear drill work; deeper angular edged drill for continuation of notch.

**Description:** horizontal line dividing field with diagonal criss-cross design below on sides of notch line and undecorated field above.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for a larger amulet-pendant of identical shape and size with similar linear design covering the whole face cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 162 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period).



## 113

**Object:** white, grey, black marble, 11x14x5.5mm. Stylized female-shaped amulet-pendant. Rounded, sloping back irregularly shaped: short head and arms above wide hips and short legs, with notches between each body part. Slightly convex base of same shape. Suspension loop perforated (2.5mm wide) sidewise in opposite direction to face design. Broken on base of suspension loop.

**Technique:** beautiful, delicate linear cut of two depths and groove drill work.

**Description:** back: small lines continuing notches and emphasizing upper body with divider line between upper and lower parts of body (waist or belt); long, deep line cutting across body between legs to head. Base: "waist" line; two diagonal lines in upper body; vertical line from between legs to "waist" (vagina?), diagonal line with parallel diagonal strokes off it on its sides.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similar division of body parts by "waist" line and "vagina" line cf. WFC No. 111. The comparatively wide, but presently broken, suspension loop of this specimen was probably comparatively long before its break, "acting" as a stylized "head". Cf. WFC Nos. 110, 112. For a similar "fertility-goddess" amulet-pendant, with rounded head, however without "arms" or division of body parts or decoration, cf. Goff 1963: fig. 229 (Tepe Gawra, Ubaid Period).

arms and body. Diagonal incisions from hips on to lower base.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium (or slightly earlier), (pre-Halaf or) Halaf period, Anatolia, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** this small sculptured amulet-pendant with its flat back side and voluptuous front body parts probably represents a fertility goddess. It has affinities with larger backed clay female figurines from a number of sites and periods, but especially with those dated to 6th millennium Anatolia. Cf. Oates/Oates 1976: 65 (voluptuous seated female figurine, hands on lap, divided legs, pronounced breasts, Choga Mami, Southern Iran, Ubaid Period), 92 (voluptuous seated figurine, more realistic head, Catal Huyuk, 6th millennium) and a group of figurines from Hacilar (6th millennium, cf. especially the voluptuous one with similar eyes). However, the present piece is not identical with any of them. Although, larger and more elongated than the above female amulet-pendant (WFC No. 113) the present specimen presents the same notch technique and overall three-dimensional simplification of the human form. In its elongation, frontal sculptured volumes, flat back and incorporated suspension loop the present piece is very similar to a Halaf period bull-head sculptured amulet-pendant. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 164 (combined linear and cross base design, Gogjali) Bull or cow heads form the largest group of sculptured amulets and amulet-pendants from the Halaf period. Cf. also ibid.: Nos. 163 (no base design, rounded volumes, Arpatchiya), 165 (large, fairly naturalistic depiction, linear base decoration, Chagar Bazar). From their diversity in size, simplification and naturalism, decorative design or lack of it, we may deduct a similar diversification in the representation of female amulets and amulet-pendants in the Halaf period.



## 114

**Object:** black granite with white chlorite(?), 13x26.5x5mm. Seated female figurine amulet-pendant. Flat back and base with rounded, curved side contours. "Egg-shaped" suspension-loop "acting" as head; short, rounded arms close to body; wide hips continuing to short, combined legs. Small piercing (2mm.) in "neck" sidewise. Bought from David Bar-Levav, Jerusalem.

**Technique:** deep, short cuts with large drills with angular and rounded ends; incisions with thin drill with sharp edge.

**Description:** two diagonal lines on front of head - eyes. One - continuous to center of face, indicating both right eye and nose. Vertical line below head indicating neck or necklace. Notches continued by diagonal lines between



## 115

**Object:** black-brown serpentine, 18x12.5x9mm. Low loop-handle in center of back, not reaching edges of back; thin, odd-shaped base made up of three connected ovals or sub-ovals parts. The whole base resembles a "cobra." Handle perforation (3mm.) drilled on back, on short axis.

**Technique:** fine, linear drill work of two depths with thin, pointed edge drills; handle perforation from two sides of back with rounded drill, seen from above.

**Description:** two parallel lines dividing field at joints of three base parts. Vertical line with strokes off it in upper elongated "oval"; diagonal lines in central wide "oval"; vertical line on edge of lower "oval."

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period,

North Iraq or North-West Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** perforation technique common on low handled Halaf seals of small size and irregular base shape. Cf. WFC No. 131. Design motifs and the division of design into three parts by lines are also typical decorative arrangements of Halaf period pendants and small handled seals. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 147 (Arpatchiya), 184, 185 (Ras Shamra). For an identically odd shaped seal decorated with similar, but denser and deeper lines in various directions cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 174.3. For a similarly shaped pendant, decorated with linear diagonal lines cf. Von der Osten 1957: No. 350.



116

**Object:** black serpentine, 9x17x7mm. "Button" seal. Thin straight top handle in center of flat back not reaching sides, slightly convex, sub-oval base with very small notches on one end. Small handle perforation (2mm.) drilled on back, offcenter on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill work; handle perforation from two sides of back with rounded drill, seen from above.

**Description:** three sets of double vertical lines: one set in center and one near each edge. Five small, deeply cut projections on one end. Cocoon or vase-shaped base?

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the odd base shape of this piece has no exact parallel in excavated material. However, it is in line with the variety of seals and pendant shapes typical of Halaf period glyptic. The handle shape, position and perforation technique point to a Halaf date. Cf. WFC No. 115 above. For a Halaf period seal with convex, round base and same type of handle cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 299 (the earliest excavated handled seal with convex base, Tell Halaf). Cf. also WFC No. 105. For small projections on base edges of Halaf pendants of various shapes and on an early Ubaid period piece cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 157, 158, 159, 160 (Arpatchiya); WFC No. 123.



117

**Object:** grey-green serpentine, 26.5x26.5x4mm. Butterfly or fly shaped amulet-pendant, with spread wings. Decorated side: with round flat center and surrounding sloping on sides; undecorated side: flat. Large perforation (6mm.) through base in center.

**Technique:** deep carved angular notches with medium size and small angular drills with sharp triangular end; linear cut and very small drilled dots with thin drill with pointed edge; perforation from plain side.

**Description:** carved head with two small grooves and drilled dot eyes; cocoon-like body and "tail" with two parallel lines from head to "tail" filled with horizontal lines widely spaced; tripartite spread wings.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, North Syria (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** unusual shape. The nearest excavated pieces are found among the long line of double-axe and quadripartite seal-amulets ranging from the Ceramic Neolithic era to the later Ubaid period. However, the Neolithic predecessors of this group, as well as the Halaf pieces and some of the Ubaid examples are all handled, while most of the later Ubaid pieces are pearl lentoids. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 255, Tab. 3, Nos. 28, 166, 167, 224, 495, 540, 543. The bored through base perforation is found especially in the glyptic of the later Halaf and early Ubaid periods on small, thin, rounded or tripartite seals with straight or slightly convex bases; on larger handled rectangular based seals with rounded corners, or on large handle ovoid based seals. Cf. ibid.: No. 232 (Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period); WFC Nos. 141-2, 144, 160-1, 280. The symmetrical tripartite decorative design of the present piece with its two central lines is basically a linear geometric layout common in the Halaf and early Ubaid periods. This layout is applied here by a master craftsman in a beautiful and convincing manner to depict a stylized linear insect. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 184, 185 (low handled, thin based rectangular seals, Ras Shamra, Halaf period), 211 (rhomboid seal-amulet, [similar layout when seen from side], Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). A fly (or lion-headed eagle) amulet-pendant of a different, simpler shape, with horizontal underside piercing, round contours and less rigid design is found in the Erlenmeyer Collection. Cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 254.1 (late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period).



Side A      Back      Base

118

**Object:** black serpentine, 13x11x7.5mm. Irregular grooved disc, with curved top slanting to one side; flat, sub-circular base truncated on one side, "fly"-shaped(?). Comparatively large horizontal side perforation (4x3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** very deep, deep, fine and shallow linear cut

with thin and wider drills; drilled "dots" with angle edged drill.

**Description:** side A: grid criss-cross design: three parallel grooves crossed by two short lines. Side B: two grooves with few strokes above and small drilled hole below. Back: two parallel lines with three small drilled dots and hatched parallel lines on one edge of center field. Base: parallel lines crossed near edges by diagonal lines forming lozenge frame and three small drilled dots arranged in triangular design in center.

**Date/origin:** middle of 5th millennium, later Halaf period or early Ubaid period, North Iraq or North Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the earliest discs which have grooved sides like the present piece appear at the end of the Halaf period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 180 (Cavi Tarlasi). Cf. also ibid.: No. 234 (square base, Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period). For the lozenge motif as part of base decoration cf. ibid.: Nos. 181 (pearl, Arpatchiya), 196 (loop-handle, square base, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period). For very small drilled dots as part of linear design cf. ibid.: 211 (pendant, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid).



119

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 15x14x6.5mm. Disc. No perforation. Broken and chipped.

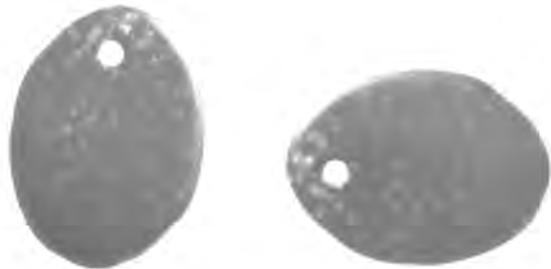
**Technique:** deep linear side drill cuts, fairly deep linear decorations with thin edged drill.

**Description:** side: vertical lines dividing side into compartments filled with small crosses; criss-cross designs; vertical line; small strokes. Back: diagonal criss-cross design with few lines widely spaced, crossed by central line. Base: grid criss-cross design: central line crossed by five straight lines.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf or early North Ubaid periods, North Iraq, Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the earliest discoids and related shapes, as mentioned above, evolved in the late Halaf period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 257, Tab. 3, Nos. 179 (Byblos, Halaf period), 180 (Cavi Tarlasi, Halaf period), 181 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For a similar, small, unperforated discoid with geometric design on one side and zoomorphic design on the other cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 297 (Tell Halaf, Halaf period, but may be of early Ubaid period). The designs on the present discoid ("plane groups p2mm, p6mm" and filling motifs) in their combined form are common Halaf period designs found in similar adjustments to forms on pendants and seals. Most of these designs were continued to be used in the early Ubaid period. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 10 (Tepe Gawra, level XV, Ubaid I period), 218 (Tepe

Gawra, Halaf period), 231 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For similar designs cf. also WFC Nos. 9, 20, 34, 41, 61. The piece has no means of suspension and may, therefore, not be a seal but a gaming piece.



120

**Object:** white spotted black flint, 25.5x34.5x5mm. Ovoid shaped amulet-pendant, slightly thinner near top. Perforation (4mm.) near top, on short axis. Perforation could "act" as "fish-eye" when pendant held sideways.

**Technique/Description:** beautifully polished but undecorated.

**Date/origin:** later 6th-4th millennium, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** very common pendant form over long chronological periods, that is from the 6th to 4th millennium. Cf. Goff 1963: fig. 51 (Jarmo, Pre-Hassuna); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 252:24, 25 (less perfect ovoid, Amuq G). The use of flint as seal or pendant material is not found among excavated specimens before the Hassuna-Samarra period. However, cf. WFC No. 4. The material-flint- suggests a date in the later Ceramic Neolithic era at the earliest or a date in the Chalcolithic era. The shape, place of perforation and white spotted black material resemble fish-shaped pendants. Cf. WFC Nos. 450-1. The present pendant is probably a comparatively early metonomic "fish"-pendant-amulet. Similarly shaped, but slightly larger "forehead" pendants with no resemblance to "fish" shape are also found in Egyptian prehistoric Naqadeh culture glyptic. The Egyptian specimens are made of limestone, serpentine or porphyry. Cf. Petrie 1972: Nos. 130p-r, Pl. XVI.



121

**Object:** dark grey-blue, black serpentine, 36x37.5x6mm. Sub-discoid seal-pendant with small angular notches on sides, very low rounded back; flat sub-circular (close to wide ovoid) base. Perforation (5x4mm) on short axis near top.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size drill; round perforation from both sides narrowing to very small hole (hole: 1.5x2mm.) in center.

**Description:** back: three haphazardly arranged drilled dots. Face: grid criss-cross design widely spaced and slightly uneven.

**Date/origin:** 5th-early 3rd millennium, Halaf to later Uruk period, Syria, Iraq, Western Iran (or Cyprus?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** no identically shaped large stone seal-pendant is known. However, see the similar, more ovoid shaped undecorated pendant WFC No. 120 above. Similar or identical wide spread "plane p2mm" layouts occur in the Halaf period on Northern rounded based handled seals and again in the later Uruk period on large handled seals from Southern Mesopotamia and Western Iran. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 201 (thin base, very small loop-handle, identical design and spacing, Arpatchiya, Halaf period), 202 (thin base, ridge handle, same design but more widely spaced, Cavi Tarlasi, Halaf period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 443 (button seal, Uruk, Jamdet Nasr period); Buchanan 1981: No. 25 (button seal, Western Iran); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 242 (button seal, widely spaced design, Tall-i-Bakun, near Pasargadae, Iran, with discussion as to their dating c. 4th-3rd millennium). Large, thicker, unperforated and without the side notches "Poid de filet" of similar shapes were found in Cyprus. One of them is decorated with a much looser version of the same grid criss-cross design. A similar piece with very small perforation near edge was also found in Cyprus. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 29.3,4 (Kirokitia).



122

**Object:** white, grey limestone with black layer on top (from fire?), present dimensions: 22x29x6.5mm. Arrow or leaf shaped amulet-pendant(?). Broken on top, side and base. In present state: unperforated. Perforation probably broken off.

**Technique/Description:** sides A and B: three deep cut notches on both sides of central line with short diagonal lines off them.

**Date/origin:** early prehistoric of uncertain date and provenance, Halaf period(?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** rare shape for pendant. The material - soft limestone, the narrow bulging dimensions and

decorative design of this object preclude it from being a utilitarian weapon or tool. Neither is it a proper seal. The piece most probably functioned as an amulet-pendant fashioned in the shape of a weapon or mythonic vegetation. The specimen's shape, side contours, deep notches, symmetrical design and careful cut, suggest a date in the Halaf period, the period with the largest variety of pendant and amulet shapes. However, see also the similar notched border on the Ceramic Neolithic amulet-seal from Tell Judeideh in Von Wickede 1990: No. 28 (Amuq A).



123

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 16x5x5mm. Ovoid "pebble" animal(?) or cocoon(?) shaped amulet-seal(?) with one "carved" end. Shape close to ovoid pearl seal but unperforated. Elongated oval base with small ovoid projection on one end. The piece could originally been shaped as pendant-seal with the original suspension-loop turned after suspension-loop broke into the present "carved" animal's head.

**Technique:** delicate, even, fairly deep, thin drill work.

**Description:** back: many hatched parallel lines continuous to base. Animal's or cocoon's(?) mouth, eyes (drilled dots) with diagonal lines indicating end of creature's head. Base: floral motif within radiating border.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-early 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid period).

**Discussion/comparanda:** "pearl" shaped seals begin to appear in large numbers in Ubaid 3 period. The largest variety of pearl shapes are known from the Ubaid periods when the pearl seals are the most favorable glyptic shapes. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3. The "carved" edge of this piece evolved either from a pebble or from pearl seal which was later(?) adapted to an animal's head. For similar intentional small notches or parallel lines cut during manufacture on edges of small Halaf period seal-pendants, pendant-amulets or amulets cf. WFC Nos. 102, 106, 108-9, 116. However, the "carved" edge of the present item could also be a result of the broken suspension loop which first reminded the later(?) craftsman of an animal's head and then was adapted by him to that animal's head. For a similar animal shaped amulet with perforation cf. WFC No. 449. Floral and leaf motifs, as well as the parallel lines motif on its own or as a border for central floral motif occur already in Ubaid 3 glyptic. They are most favorable during later Ubaid (Ubaid 4) glyptic. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 225 (Eridu, early Ubaid period), 229 (Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period), 240 (Tepe Gawra, late Ubaid period). For oval or lentil pebbles adapted to "pearl" shaped seals and covered with open-ended hatched lines cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: 19, Nos. 173.7, 174.5, 175.7, 8, 176.2, 5, 6.

## (B) Handled and close bodied seals

### 1. Low handled seals with square, rectangular, triangular, rhomboid and notched bases

54

As seen above, stamp seals with small bulging handles of various shapes placed in the center of a thin back began to appear in the Hassuna-Samarra period. During the Halaf period small bulging handles of various shapes become dominant. These handles in the Halaf glyptic occur mainly above thin, small square, rectangular, and round based "button" seals but also above thin triangular, rhomboid and notched based seals. The above mentioned types of small "button" seals are continued to be in use also during the early Ubaid (Ubaid 3) period. Most of these Halaf period small-handled seals have a fine, delicate, linear design more developed and complicated than that of the earlier linear designs. Their designs were cut with finer edged tools. Others are decorated with simple criss-cross designs, with very faint linear designs or with radiating cross designs. Most of the pieces in this group of the WFC handled seals belong to the Halaf period.



124

**Object:** grey-greenish serpentine, 15x15x6mm. Low, small, flat top rectangular handle; thin, square base with angular corners. Small handle perforation (3mm.) off center of back, on short axis. Broken on one base corner.

**Technique:** fine, evenly and precisely cut with thin drill.

**Description:** handle top: horizontal line. Base: combined diagonal and grid criss-cross designs forming diagonal squares filled with crosses.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid (Ubaid 3) period, North-East Syria, North Iraq

**Discussion/comparanda:** this "developed plane group p4mm" layout originated in North Syria or North Mesopotamia in the second half of the 6th millennium, was used as seal-pendant and seal decoration in the Halaf period and continued to be used as stamp seal ornamentation in these areas in the early Ubaid period (5th millennium). It is well attested in Amuq B glyptic when it occurs on handled seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 9, Tab. 4, No. 30 (round base, Tell Judeideh, Amuq B). In the Halaf period it is common also on handled seals but appears also on many seal-pendants and impressions. For handled examples cf. ibid.: Nos. 93 (round base, Arpatchiya), 197, (round base, Gird Banahilk). The design continues to occur in the early Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: No. 208 (round base, Tepe Gawra). In the 4th millennium this design spread to south and south east Iran (for example to Susa A and Tell-i-Bakun) and

virtually disappears from the Northern glyptic repertoire. All of the 4th millennium southern Iranian seals with the said design are large or fairly large button seals with round convex bases and the design is usually deeply cut. Cf. Amiet 1972: 6, note 6, Nos. 43-4, 46, (Susa A); Langsdorff/McCown 1942: Pl. 82.3; Schmidt 1937: 127, fig. 93 (TBA 412) (Tell-i-Bakun). For the influence of Halaf glyptic on Susiana glyptic cf. Von Wickede 1990: 257. Of the many known examples, the nearest or identical seals to the present WFC seal, come from a non stratified level at Arpatchiya, dated to the early Halaf period; from Chagar Bazar, Halaf period and from Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 188, 189, 192 (Arpatchiya), 209 (Tepe Gawra, level XIX); Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 309 (Chagar Bazar).



125

**Object:** black serpentine, 16x17x7.5mm. Small cylinder handle in center of back, thin squarish base with rounded corners. Original handle broken and glued with modern glue to ancient breakage. Very small handle perforation (2mm.). back: four faint, short lines forming simple criss-cross design around handle, probably engraver's marks.

**Technique:** back: four faint, short lines forming simple criss-cross design around handle, probably engraver's marks. base: exquisitely fine lines, even and condensed cut in two depths with thin drill.

**Description:** open-ended square, whole field filled with diagonal criss-cross design with comparatively large central drilled dot.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-East Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape in Halaf glyptic. The small cylinder handle developed in this period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 256, No. 90 (round base, Arpatchiya). No seal with an exact base design has been excavated. However, the fine symmetrical design of this seal (a combination of "plane group p4mm" layout filled with "plane group c2mm" and "point group 4mm" designs) is frequently depicted on small square based Halaf period seals and is a typical feature of Halaf glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 190 (with central drilled dot, Arpatchiya), 194 (same density and cut). For other excavated Halaf period seals with a central drilled dot cf. ibid.: Nos. 180 (reel-shape, round base, Cavi Tarlasi), 203 (small handled, round base, Arpatchiya). See also the square tabloid with a central pierced hole from Chagar Bazar, dated to the Halaf period in Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 308. For fine cut designs of similar technique on seals of various shapes cf. WFC. Nos. 44, 126; Erlenmeyer, Nos. 173.3 (rectangular base, loop handle, web-filled cross within lozenge frame, ca. 5th millennium), 173.4 (similar, low ridge handle, parallel lines with cross hatching, 5th millennium).



126

**Object:** black serpentine, 20x20x5mm. Low, very small half-barrel-ear handle in center of flat back, thin square base with angular and rounded corners. Small handle perforation (2.5mm) on long axis. Broken on two base corners.

**Technique:** back: four faint short lines forming simple grid criss-cross design around handle (engraver's marks?); base: exquisitely fine, delicate linear cut with fine, thin drill.

**Description:** developed grid criss-cross design densely spaced on sides, widely spaced in middle with central line.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** design and even work close to WFC Nos. 43-4. An almost identical design occurs on a seal in the Yale Collection, cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 7 (Amuq, c. 5000 B.C.). However, these are either larger loop-handled seals with comparatively thick ovoid or trapezoid bases or pyramidal seals. The handle shape of the present seal and its thin, square base point to a date in the early Halaf period. Cf. WFC No. 125 above. For similarly shaped seals with linear divisions dated to the Halaf period, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 184-185 (Ras Shamra).



121

**Object:** black-grey serpentine, 13x15x6mm. Low, small loop handle grooved on sides above base; flat, thin rectangular base with rounded corners. Small handle perforation (3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** delicate, fine, linear cut with thin drill of two depths.

**Description:** triangle in upper half of field crossed by line parallel to its base, of comparatively deep cut. Whole field filled by fainter grid criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** such fine, small loop-handled seals are very common in Halaf glyptic. The design is close to WFC Nos. 43, 126, 146. For triangular or rhomboid designs filled with linear motifs on Halaf impressions and similar or identical seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 61, 75, 76 (seal-pendant impressions, Arpatchiya), 196 (same shape, Yarimtepe), 205 (small ear-handle, round base, Ras Shamra). Cf. also the similar designs on WFC Nos. 12

(irregular sub-pyramidal seal, Amuq A or B horizon), 79 (seal-pendant, Halaf period).



128

**Object:** light brown, cream, brown, hard limestone, 14x13x6mm. Low, small loop handle in center of back; thin square, slightly convex base. Small handle perforation (3mm.) reaching base. Broken base.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut of two depths with thin, pointed edge drill.

**Description:** symmetrical linear design. Central line, flanked on two sides, from edges to center, by irregular diagonal criss-cross design and by vertical divider line with parallel strokes near two other sides.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape, size and "point group m" layout with a strong emphasis on a central symmetry are common Halaf period glyptic traits. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 7, Tab. 4, Nos. 60 (seal-pendant impressions, Arpatchiya), 148 (pendant-seal, Arpatchiya), 185, 187 (same shape, Ras Shamra).



129

**Object:** yellowish-cream marble, 15.5x15x6mm. Very small, low loop-lug handle in center of back, thin square, slightly convex base. Small handle perforation (3mm.).

**Technique:** fine drilling of two depths cut with thin drill.

**Description:** four square design with diagonal line running through center point. Two alternating squares filled with irregular criss-cross design and other two filled with "leaf" design formed by the diagonal line.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** material, handle shape and design are very similar to WFC Nos. 23, 130. For identical size, shape and same type of "point group mm2" layout on Halaf period examples cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 1 (impression, Tepe Gawra); Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 77 (impression, Tepe Gawra), 186 (seal, Ras Shamra). For an identical design on a small loaf-shaped seal with squarish convex base cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 20 (probably



130

**Object:** yellowish-cream marble, 24x23.5x7mm. Small, low loop-ear handle in center of back, not reaching sides; quatrefoil shaped base: circle with four large notches, slightly convex. Side profile toward lentoid. Small handle perforation (3x5mm.) incised into back. Base slightly broken.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with large and medium sized drill.

**Description:** quatrefoil, cruciform design. Cross in center, filled "leaf" in two alternating "petals"; line crossed by two vertical lines with strokes on edge in two other "petals." Central lines of "petals" form second cross.

**Date/origin:** middle 5th millennium, Late Halaf period or early Ubaid (Ubaid 3) period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape, handle, and size of this seal are in line with the quatrefoil and double-axe Halaf period seals and seal-amulets from Arpatchiya and Cavi Tarlasi. However, these Halaf specimens are cut out of a square or rectangular frame and usually have sharp corners, whereas this seal develops from a circle and has curved corners. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 166, 167 (Arpatchiya), 195 (Cavi Tarlasi). The present base design is similar to WFC No. 129 above and is a variation on the same "point group m" layout typical of Halaf glyptic. Circular quatrefoil seals occur in early Ubaid contexts. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 224 (lentoid, central cross and grid criss-cross in all four "petals", Tell-i Iblis), 226 (loop-handle, central cross, line with strokes in edges of all "petals"). "Button" seals with convex bases occur sporadically already in Halaf glyptic, but become predominant in Iranian glyptic during the Ubaid 3 and 4 periods. Cf. ibid.: 257, No. 207 (Tell Halaf, Halaf period). For similar, but much more naturalized designs without the central cross decorating later and larger seals of different shapes see the following examples: small gable from Dhahab (Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Fig. 380: 8 [found out of context, Amuq F, G or H], carinated hemispheroid (Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 79 [bought Jerablus, perhaps from Bostepe, W. Mesopotamia], carinated rhomboid, slightly convex base, (cf. ibid.: No. 80 [bought Merza, perhaps from Tell Basher]). See also the carinated rhomboids with cruciform foliated designs, tentatively dated to 4th millennium Iran in Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 194, 2. (square quatrefoil base, slightly convex, less notched), 5 (similar).



131

**Object:** black serpentine, 19x11x5mm. Small, low, thin top ridge handle on flat, thin back of unusual shape: irregular rhomboid on long sub-rectangle forming imaginary triangle with chevron cut notches on two sides above corners. Small handle perforation (3x4mm.) drilled into back, off center, piercing on short axis. Broken on right base.

**Technique:** even, symmetrical design of two depths cut with thin drill.

**Description:** "leaf"- design within frame, parallel lines. Central line framed by two diagonal lines on edge of "rhomboid" part of base - comparatively deeply cut. Fine diagonal lines off central line forming "leaf"-design. Fine parallel vertical lines on "rectangular" part of base.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** position of handle perforation and type of handle same as WFC No. 99. Halaf glyptic are characterised by a variety of new shapes including triangular and rhomboid seal-pendants and triangular seals with small loop-ear handles or ridge-ear handles. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 76, 78 (pendant or seal impressions, Arpatchiya), 141 (seal-pendant, Cavi Tarlasi), 142-148, 150-151 (seal-pendants, Arpatchiya), 152 (seal-pendant, Tepe Gawra), 169-171 (small handle seals, Arpatchiya). Cf. also the much larger seal-pendant from the early Ubaid period in ibid.: No. 211 (Tepe Gawra). For a similar "point group m" layout of the "leaf" type on Halaf pieces cf. ibid.: Abb. 7, Nos. 107 (seal-pendant, Arpatchiya), 113 (seal-pendant, Yarimtepe), 164 (zoomorphic seal-amulet, Gogjali), 172 (seal-pendant, Arpatchiya). For a seal-amulet with similar ridge handle decorated with parallel diagonal lines in three directions toward center cf. Von der Osten 1957: No. 344.



132

**Object:** red-orange, cream limestone, 28x14x8.5mm. Low, small, irregular loop handle (close to ridge handle) in center of slightly sloping, thin rhomboid back, small chevron-like notches on shorter sides of back reaching base. Rhomboid base. Handle perforation (3x4.5mm.) incised on back, on short axis.

**Technique:** two depths linear open-ended grooves cut with sharp edged drill; handle perforation cut from two sides of back forming curved cut on back, narrowing in center of handle.

**Description:** line-filled cross of long and short cross lines filled with parallel lines from edge to center.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic era, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, North Iraq (or Syria, South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the shape, size, handle type, location, perforation technique and small contour notches of this rhomboid seal are closest to the great variety of Halaf period low handled seals with triangular or partial-triangular contours from Arpatchiya. In its shape and its symmetrical layout this piece is also close to an early Ubaid sharp angular cornered rhomboid pendant from Tepe Gawra. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab 3, Nos. 166, 167, 169, 171, 172 (Arpatchiya), 211 (Tepe Gawra). For early examples of the line-filled cross motif on handled seals with round or ovoid bases and on pendants cf. ibid.: Nos. 44 (Yarimtepe I, Hassuna-Samara period), 177 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period), Abb. 32.2 (Tepe Gawra, level XVI, early Ubaid period). For similar base decoration cf. also WFC Nos. 79 (rhomboid shaped pendant, more refined line grooves), 80-81 (rhomboid shaped pendants); Von der Osten 1957: No. 344 (low ridge handle, irregular triangular base with three chevron notches, parallel radiating lines).



134

**Object:** dark grey, black-green serpentine, 15x13x7 mm. Small loop handle in center of flat back, not reaching sides of back, thin rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforated (3x4mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** very faint linear design with very thin drill with pointed end.

**Description:** irregular developed criss-cross design. Grid criss-cross design with few diagonal criss-cross lines superimposed.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for an identical faint design on square based seals from the Halaf period cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Figs. 306 (pyramid, Chagar Bazar), 310 (Chagar Bazar); Von Wickede 1990: No. 188 (Arpatchiya). Seal shape, base shape and decoration are basically the same as WFC No. 124, but the base decoration is extremely faint (from wear?).



133

**Object:** black serpentine with cream-light brown patina layer on base. 11x10x7mm. Small, low loop handle off center of back, oval base truncated on one short side. Handle perforation (3x4mm.) incised on back, on short side.

**Technique:** symmetrical, delicate cut of two linear depths with drill; handle perforation as WFC No. 157.

**Description:** cruciform "star" design. Six-ray "star" with central drilled dot, line-filled.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** overall shape typical of much larger Ceramic Neolithic seals. Cf. WFC Nos. 9, 11. However, this seal's size, handle shape and perforation technique, as well as its base design indicate a Halaf date. For small size seals with similar or identical handles cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 298 (square base, Tell Halaf); Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 171 (heart shaped, Arpatchiya), 177 (identical base shape, Yarimtepe II). Star motifs of "symmetrical point group 4mm" are not known before the Halaf period. When these motifs decorate stamp seals in post-Halaf periods their appearance is not as neat as in the Halaf period and on this seal. For design cf. ibid.: Nos. 57 (hand seal-amulet impressions, Arpatchiya), 64, 66 (seal-amulet impressions, Arpatchiya), 123 (seal-amulet, with small drilled dot in center of "star", Chagar Bazar), 148 (seal-amulet, Arpatchiya).



135

**Object:** black serpentine, 14.5x13x5.5mm. Low, small ridge handle, grooved on both sides, square base with rounded corners. Ridge handle broken in center above perforation, from wear. Small handle perforation (3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** faint linear cut; perforation cut from both sides with thin stone circle in center of hole.

**Description:** linear design. Three parallel lines with one small, diagonal stroke between first and second lines.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf or early North Ubaid periods, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** size and shape of this small seal indicate a late Ceramic Neolithic (late Amuq B or Hassuna-Samara) date or early Chalcolithic (Halaf period or early Ubaid period) date. However, faint, thin linear designs do not characterise Ceramic Neolithic seals. In Halaf glyptic they appear frequently on a large variety of seal shapes, whereas in Ubaid 3 glyptic their frequency is smaller. A field division by three parallel lines or a "plane group p1m1" layout are fairly common designs on Halaf and early Ubaid periods seals. For examples on low handled seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 9, Tab. 4, Nos. 185 (Ras

Shamra, Halaf period), 193 (Cavi Tarlasi, Halaf period), 233 (Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period). For similar faint linear designs cf. WFC No. 134 above.



136

**Object:** black serpentine, 10.5x9.5x5mm. Low, rounded top, sloping ridge-handle, thin rectangular base with rounded corners. Grooved on both sides of handle above base. Small handle perforation (3mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** even, delicate linear cut with thin implement.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design, lines densely spaced.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similarly shaped small seals with different linear base designs cf. WFC Nos. 134-5, 137, 159 and for similarly shaped seals with criss-cross base designs cf. WFC Nos. 57-8. Cf. also Mellaart 1975: fig. 95.b.1 (criss-cross base design less refined than present seal, Hassuna II, Early Halaf Period); Von Wickede 1990: No. 182 (Ras Shamra, Halaf period).



137

**Object:** black serpentine, 11x9.5x5mm. Low ridge handle broken in center above perforation, thin, rectangular base with rounded and angular corners. Broken above small handle perforation (2.5mm. wide), on short axis.

**Technique:** even cut of two depths.

**Description:** cruciform design: cross with short incised lines at edge.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period (or early Ubaid period), North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size as WFC No. 136 above. Very common base decoration (a variant of "point group 4") occurring in rough form in the Hassuna-Samara period and in its "pure" form from the Halaf era to the Uruk period. This layout is most frequently used in the Ubaid period. However, it rarely occurs on square or rectangular based handled seals like the present piece. For the design cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 44 (ridge handle, ovoid base, Yarimtepe, Hassuna-Samara period), 102 (seal-pendant, Arpatchiya, Halaf period), 109 (seal-pendant, Yarimtepe, Halaf period), 177 (loop-handle, ovoid base, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period). For stamp seals from unstratified contexts in

the Amuq area with this base design cf. Braudwood/Braudwood 1960: Figs. 379: 2 (small hemispheroid, probably late Ubaid period), 9 (small loop-handle, same base shape as present seal, probably Halaf or early Ubaid periods), 10 (ridge handle, same base shape as present seal). For examples from Tepe Gawra, cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Figs. 221 (seal-pendant, Halaf period = Von Wickede, Abb. 32.2, Tepe Gawra XVI-XV, end of early Ubaid), 8 (uneven pyramid, level XVI), 39 (lentoid, level XII, Ubaid period), 46 (hemispheroid, level XII, Ubaid period), 152 (hemispheroid, level X-A, Uruk period), 173 (hemispheroid, level X, Uruk period). The said design occurs also in Southern glyptic and is especially common in Susiana. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 457 (small round based button, Tello, Ubaid period); Amiet 1972: Nos. 25 ([Susa A], 35 [Susa A], 40 [Susa A], 53 [Susa A], 78 [Susa B], 85 [Susa B], all are convex based hemispheroids or button seals of larger size than the present piece).



138

**Object:** black serpentine, 10.5x10x4.5mm. Low ridge or loop handle, thin squarish base. Handle broken above small perforation (2.5mm. wide).

**Technique:** two depths of open-ended thin cut.

**Description:** cruciform design. Cross within central square. Square lines extend to crude swastika with parallel radiating lines above.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf or early Ubaid periods. North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size as above WFC Nos. 136-7. A design of squares filled with crosses is typical to Halaf glyptic and is occasionally found also in early Ubaid examples. The swastika design (a version of "point group 4" layout) and the radiating cross design are features of early Ubaid period cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 212 (Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period); WFC No. 175. This same design, but without the central cross, is found also on small tabloids with rounded corners from Alisar and Tell Brak excavated from late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" levels. Cf. Von der Osten 1957: Pl. 6, fig. 21 (Alisar); Mallowan 1949: Pl. XX, figs. 31, 33 (Tell Brak). Cf. also Amorai-Stark 1993: SBF No. 3 (carinated hemispheroid, swastika design).



139

**Object:** mottled black-green serpentine with brown patina (or dirt), 17.5x13.5x7mm. Low, wide handle with rounded corners with slightly slanting top (close to wide "ear" handle) in center of thin, sub-rectangular back; sub-rectangular base with angular and rounded corners. Comparatively large handle perforation (3.5x4mm.) reaching back, on short axis. Grooved on sides of handle. Base design on short axis parallel to perforation.

**Technique:** handle top: linear cut with thin drill with pointed edge; base: linear cut with thin and very thin drills.

**Description:** handle top: grid criss-cross design. Base: striding animal, facing left, long neck, raised foreleg, long, lowered tail, faint horns. Faint filling motifs(?)

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium-first half of 4th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf or Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid), Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to Halaf period seals with thinner handles and to early Ubaid period handled seals with rounder loop handles and same base shape. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 233 (Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period). Cf. also the almost identically shaped seal in Delaporte 1920: No. G.6 (long necked animal to left with bird and snake above, plant in front, drilled dot below, within linear frame, region of Smyrna, South Anatolia). For design identical to present seal's top design cut on top of an earlier pyramidal seal cf. WFC No. 29. In its delicate, linear engraving and layout the present zoomorphic base motif has some affinity with few Halaf period (or even earlier periods) representations of animals in "point group 1" layout, as well as with some early Ubaid period depictions of animals in the same layout. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 81 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level II), 218 (lentoid pearl, Tepe Gawra, level XVIII). For later linear representations of horned animals with long neck cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 134 (rectangular impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI), 171 (large hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level X). Thus, the comparative popularity of the shape of this small seal in the Halaf and early Ubaid periods point toward a production date in these cultures. However, the probable occasional continued manufacture of seals of this shape and size in the later North Ubaid period and especially the wide spread use of this zoomorphic base motif, its layout and cut style over long periods in Northern glyptic do not permit a narrowing of the dating of this seal only to the Halaf or the early Ubaid periods.

The simple handle top decoration has some affinity also with criss-cross designs decorating rounded handle tops of studs with rectangular base, from Iron Age (9th-7th cent. B.C.) Syria. The layout and engraving style of the animal designs on the bases of these studs differ from that of the animal on the present piece. Cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1988: Nos. 216, 218-9, 239.



## 140

**Object:** black-grey serpentine, 21x17x9mm. Sub-pyramidal back, thick with round side contours, sub-rectangular base with very rounded corners. Very large perforation (7mm.) in center, incised on back on long axis forming low, thin, sub-handle on short axis. Broken on one corner.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with angular edged implement; large perforation from both sides, seen from above, cutting off most of pyramidal back toward much smaller hole (hole: 3mm.) under top.

**Description:** irregular criss-cross design. Three vertical lines evenly spaced enclosed by two diagonal lines with drilled dots outside frame near edge (four on wider side and three drilled on shorter sides). Ladder design.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, Syria - South-East Anatolia, or North Iraq.

**Discussion/Comporanda:** No identically shaped seal has been found in excavations. Shape is probably transitional: the back a transitional shape between low conoidal-pyramidal back to gable pearl back; the base a transitional shape between ovoid and straight-angle base. Pearl seals originate in the later Halaf period and are most common in the Ubaid periods, while gable pearls are most common during the early Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 5, Tab. 3. The large perforation of the present seal is close to large perforations found mainly on Ceramic Neolithic pyramid seals. The actual perforation technique of the present piece with its round drilling on most of back is similar to the perforation technique of smaller and neater perforations found mainly on Halaf period low handled square based seals. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 21 (Ras Shamra, Amuq A), 182, 184, 193, 194, 195 (various locations in Syria and North Iraq, Halaf period). No identical design has been found on excavated seals from these periods. Drilled dots as part of base design originate in the Halaf period and occur also in the early Ubaid period. A layout division into three zones is most common on small, low handled square or rectangular based seals from the Halaf period. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 184, 185, 187 (low handled rectangular or sub-rectangular based seals with linear divisions of three zones. No. 187 also with drilled dots as part of base design, Ras Shamra, Halaf period), 211 (large rhomboid seal-pendant, multi-line cross design with rows of small drilled dots on sides, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). For more refined variations of this design cf. WFC Nos. 42-3 (pyramidal seals); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 178.9 (less refined).

2. Low handled seals with round or notched bases and conoidal or sub-conoidal seals with small handles and round, ovoid or sub-ovoid bases

WFC Nos. 141-3 represent three almost identically shaped seals dated by shape and design to the Halaf period. They

are characterized by a flat (WFC Nos. 142-3) or slightly convex (WFC No. 141) base. Two pieces (WFC Nos. 141-2) are perforated through base slightly off center of design. All three pieces have a much worn small bulge in the center of their back through which the perforation was drilled. These bulges may have originally been a small, low suspension loop handle. The pieces are probably thin button-seals (or seal-pendants), but could also have functioned as decorated buttons and/or beads. Their drilling through base was done either during manufacture or, and more likely, shortly after. WFC No. 143 has an identical design to that of WFC No. 142 but lacks the drilled through base hole and has instead a small, thin, broken loop-handle on its back. WFC No. 143 is a proper seal. It may serve as the proper seal example of the original shape of WFC Nos. 141-2 (before the wear of their thin loop-handle?), or it may have functioned as the seal prototype of WFC 141-2 in their presumed function as beads and/or buttons. All three pieces originate in the same area and come from the same cultural phase, but were probably not manufactured by the same workshop or craftsman.

Two irregular "tabloid"-pendants (WFC Nos. 60, 96) show strong affinities with this group by being perforated through base. Furthermore, the design ornamenting WFC No. 96 is very close to that of WFC No. 141 (as well as to WFC No. 129).

The shape of WFC No. 445 is similar to that of WFC Nos. 141-3. However, it is larger, decorated with a floral design and its large drilled through base hole is positioned in the center of its base design. The hole of WFC No. 445 was drilled during manufacture. Its base design dates it to the early Uruk period.



141

**Object:** cream, yellow limestone, 17x16x3mm. Two small bulges on back (broken handle?), thin circular base, slightly convex. Perforated between two back bulges (back hole: 4mm.), through base (hole: 2.5mm.). Chipped around base.

**Technique:** fairly shallow and slightly deeper linear cut in two depths with thin drills.

**Description:** cruciform design. Cross with central drilled hole through base, diagonal criss-cross design in two alternating quadrants, in third quadrant: small square filled with cross inside and diagonal criss-cross design outside, in fourth quadrant: square with diagonal and linear design outside.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** material identical to WFC Nos. 129-30. The "point group mm2" base composition is of the same type as theirs. For similar base designs on thin based pieces cf. WFC Nos. 84 (triangular shaped pendant),

96 (square pendant), 133 (irregular ridge handle seal, sub-oval base with one straight side). For Halaf period thin, round based seals with very low "ear"-handle of same size cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 203 (central hole on base, Arpatchiya), 204 (Ras Shamra), 205 ("point group mm2" design, Ras Shamra). Shape close to undecorated stone beads from Kurdu (cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 166:5,6, 3,6 [Amuq E]) and to a decorated stone pendant from Sha'ar-Hagolan, Israel (cf. Bar-Yosef 1977: 57 [cross with central drilled hole through base, with two radiating strokes in quadrants, Ceramic Neolithic Period]).



142

**Object:** black serpentine, 14x14x3.5mm. Bulge (remains of original small, low "ear"- handle) on back of thin, round base. Perforated (3mm.) in center near bulge, through base.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin drill with pointed end.

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross design with some diagonal lines to center and central drilled hole through base.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 141 above. For identical design on a slightly larger piece of the same type cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 203 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For similar designs cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 297 (discoid, Arpatchiyah, Early Halaf); WFC Nos. 84 (triangular pendant), 143 (below), 200 (high hemispheroid).



143

**Object:** white, cream, grey-brown marble, 16x16x4mm. Small, low ridge or loop "ear"-handle off center of back, thin round base. Deep handle perforation (hole: 3mm. wide) incised on back (4mm.) very close to base, on short axis. Broken handle below top.

**Technique:** linear cut of two depths with thin drills with pointed end.

**Description:** irregular double cross design: grid criss-cross with irregular diagonal criss-cross on top.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period.

North-West Syria -South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 142 above. For the motif cf. WFC No. 124. For an irregular depiction of this design on a similar seal with rectangular base cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 188 (Arpachiyah, Early Halaf).



144

**Object:** black serpentine, 18x20x5.5mm. Low, rounded sides handle (ear or loop-handle) raised from one side of back, not reaching other side, back with rounded contours; thin, trefoil base with curved contours and notches. Handle broken in middle of perforation (3mm. wide). Secondary ancient piercing through center of base, probably shortly after manufacture, to replace broken handle. Secondary perforation (back: 2mm., base: 3mm.) slightly off center taking into account base design. Seal worn smooth.

**Technique:** smooth drilling of holes from back to base

**Description:** four drilled holes through base; one in each foil, one in center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria -South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape, rounded contours, and handle type are close to WFC No. 130. However, the present piece differs from the above in its number of "petals", position of handle near one edge of back (earlier feature), rounder base contours and flat base. For drilled through base holes as part of original design cf. WFC No. 154. For secondary ancient perforation through broken loop-handle to base which takes into account the base design cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 43 (Tell Hassuna, Hassuna-Samarra period), 46 (Tell Matarra, Hassuna-Samarra period); WFC Nos. 141-2.



145

**Object:** green serpentine, 15x7.5x14mm. Small, thin loop handle "growing" directly from oval base. Comparatively large handle perforation (4mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** two depths of thin linear drill cut.

**Description:** irregular linear decoration. Double vertical lines with few diagonal lines in one direction between and near edge; one diagonal line in other direction

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria -South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for close shape and size cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 178 (Yarimtepe, Halaf period). Shape close also to WFC Nos. 33 and 53 but is smaller and much thinner. Design of "plane group p211" type occurs in the Halaf period where it is a development of earlier designs. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 4, No. 193 (small handled, square base, Çavı Tarlası). For similar designs on pyramid seals see WFC Nos. 42, 45, 182-4, and on disc No. 262.



146

**Object:** lightly mottled black serpentine, 17.5x13x7mm. Low lug handle in center of back, slightly convex ovoid base. Handle perforation (3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** two depths linear design; linear cut with thin drill, faint linear incisions with very thin drill.

**Description:** triangle divided into two in one corner, radiating parallel and criss-cross strokes around border, empty center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq, Syria -South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and especially handle shape most typical of Halaf period glyptic. For Halaf period handled seal with a more pronounced convex round base cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 207 (Tell Halaf); WFC Nos. 105, 116. The base field of this piece is empty. This was either done on purpose or, more likely, shows that the design has not been finished. For a very similar arrangement of base design with a triangle and grid criss-cross motif on the same type of handled seal but with rectangular base cf. WFC No. 127.



147

**Object:** white-cream marble, 16x16x11mm. Conoidal back cut on top sides with small, low handle "growing" directly from back in center; round base. Broken above perforation (3mm.). Originally short loop handle on top of back. Chipped and broken on base.

**Technique:** deep, even linear cut with medium sized drill.

**Description:** half double criss-cross design. Diagonal

criss-cross crossed by one set of grid criss-cross.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf or early Ubaid periods, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape developed during Halaf period out of the conoid seal. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 254, Nos. 197 (similar base design, larger, Gird Banahik), 198-199 (Arpatchiya). The base design is a typical "plane group p6mm" layout. On round bases this layout is found only in Halaf and early Ubaid (Ubaid 3) period glyptic. Cf. ibid.: 261, Nos. 90, 92 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period), 230 (Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 101:2 (ovoid base, First Mixed Range); Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 10 (Tell Gawra, level XV, early Ubaid period); Buchanan 1981: No. 11 (loop on square base, similar design: grid criss-cross with one set of diagonal lines, Halaf period, with lists); For similar double criss-cross design cf. WFC No. 124.



148

**Object:** black-greenish-bluish serpentine, 19x19x9mm. Low conoidal with small, low loop or "pinched" handle in center; round base. Broken on perforation (3mm. wide) and handle.

**Technique:** three depths linear cut with sharp, pointed edged drills; perforation from two sides to narrow center with ring in middle, with rounded drills.

**Description:** cross within square with thinner "cross" reaching edge and radiating edge strokes to center.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape, perforation technique and base cutting technique typical to Halaf and early Ubaid periods, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 198 (criss-cross-filled cross, Arpatchiya, Halaf period), 199 (linear design, Arpatchiya, Halaf period), 208 (Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period); WFC Nos. 317, 276; Buchanan /Moorey 1984: No. 21 (line-filled cross, bought Cilicia). All elements of design occur in Halaf and early Ubaid periods. Design close to WFC Nos. 78, 80, 155, 301; Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 173.3 (rectangular, loop handle); Buchanan 1981: No. 32 (low gabled lentoid, Ubaid period).



149

**Object:** black serpentine with some brown patina, 21x23.5x10mm. Low conoidal with small, low loop or "pinched" handle in center; irregular ovoid base. Perforated (5mm. wide) on short axis. Broken on perforation and handle.

**Technique:** very deep linear cut; perforation from two sides to narrow center with ring in middle, perforated with broad, rounded drills.

**Description:** cross within square with one additional line parallel to cross line.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC No. 148 above. For very close design on Halaf impression cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 79 (Arpatchiya). In later periods the design, in slight variations or modifications, decorates seals of different shapes. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 52 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period = Von Wickede 1990: No. Tepe Gawra, level XII?); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 191:5 (hemispheroid, Judeideh, Amuq F), 379:8; Amiet 1972: Nos. 80, 91-4 (hemispheroids, Susa A); Von der Osten 1957: No. 112. For a cross within square or squares cf. Schmidt 1937: No. H2051 (button seal, Hissar IA); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 183, 184 (p. 53, second and third on 2nd row, hemispheroids); Amiet 1972: No. 11 (small button seal, Susa A). For cross within circle on low handled button seal cf. Doumet 1992: No. 1.



150

**Object:** grey-black serpentine, 16x17x12mm. High conoidal back ending with low loop handle, round base. Handle perforation (4mm.) incised into back sides.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with thin drill.

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 53 and identical to WFC No. 147. For similarly condensed "plane group p4mm" design in the same engraving technique cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 201 (large loop handle, round based, Arpatchiya, Halaf period).



**Object:** black, dark brown limestone, 18x15x12mm. "Button" seal with small loop-handle (close to "pinched" handle) on sub-conoid back, flat ovoid base. Elongated ovoid perforation (4x6mm.) reaching back, on short axis.

**Technique:** thin linear cut with sharp edged drill.

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape same as WFC No. 53. The irregularity of the motif and the thin cut point to a Halaf rather than a Hassuna-Samara date. For the motif on Halaf period small "button" seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 91 (Arpatchiya), 201 (Arpatchiya).



**Object:** black-brown limestone, 20x19.5x10mm. Conoid with thin, rounded top forming a semi-pinched "loop-handle", round base. Perforation (4.5mm.) below top, reaching back, on short axis.

**Technique:** many drilled holes of various sizes linked together to form lines with few, fairly broad lines with fairly deep rounded drills with globular ends.

**Description:** gazelle standing, facing right.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th or second half of 4th millennium, early Ubaid period or Uruk period (probably Gawra/early Uruk period), Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq (or North Palestine).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape is a late variation on Halaf period small conoids. These small conoids and such shapes as the present piece continue to occur sporadically throughout the Ubaid period (mainly in Syria, North Palestine and South-East Anatolia). For similar shapes from the later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period cf. Von Wickede 1990: 254-255, Abb. 43.2 (Byblos, later Ubaid period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 379:11 (Amuq area, extrusive in Post-Phase J contexts, Amuq F?). For close shapes with rounder backs cf. also Amiet 1972: Nos. 257 (Susa B), 258 (Susa B). For similar shapes cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 11 (later 6th-5th millennium), 21 (bought Cilicia, later 6th-5th millennium). Shape has affinity also with WFC No. 257. Layout, engraving style and motif are found in early Ubaid glyptic. However, the number of drilled dots in these depictions is usually smaller than in the present example. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 220, 222, 223 (Tepe Gawra, levels XVII, XII, XV). For human figure in the same engraving technique dated to the ending later

Ubaid period or the early Gawra period cf. *Ibid.*: Abb. 41.4 (Tepe Gawra, level XI A). The combined drilled dots and linear engraving is most typical of later Uruk period glyptic. For examples with individual caprids cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 225.1 (plaque-shaped ovoid, obverse with four legged mouflon and connected drillings in field, reverse slightly concave), 232.1 (large hemispheroid, two legged mouflon with head turned back, drillings in field); WFC No. 424.



**Object:** grey-brown serpentine, 23x22.5x11.5mm. High conoid or conoidal with broken loop-handle(?), round base. Large original perforation (6mm. wide) broken. Secondary smaller ancient perforation (2mm. wide) in opposite direction on remaining sides of original perforation. Broken above both perforations.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut and small pointed strokes with thin drill with pointed end; original perforation with rotating implement from both sides narrowing in center to very narrow "tunnel"; even, narrow secondary perforation.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with one cross line missing, filled with two angles and stroke in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium (or first half of 4th millennium), Early Ubaid period (or later Ubaid period), North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** original perforation technique same as WFC No. 149. This perforation technique does not occur in later prehistoric glyptic. The secondary perforation could date from the same period or from the later Chalcolithic era. Original shape is probably that of conoidal with loop-handle. If so, the shape of the present seal before top was broken is identical or very close to WFC Nos. 149 and 150. However, since the design of the present piece is uncommon in Halaf period glyptic, begins to appear in the Ubaid period and is most common in the later Chalcolithic era the present piece is probably of a later date (early Ubaid period?). For similar faint depictions of the design on close bodied seals from the Ubaid period (or later) cf. Von Wickede 1990: 264; WFC Nos. 208, 223, 258, 288-9, 258.

3. Handled and sub-handled seals of various sizes and various base shapes with encircled and drilled through base designs and zoomorphic designs

64



154

**Object:** black serpentine, 20x15x5mm. Thin, low ridge handle in center of flat back, not reaching edges of back; thin, irregular base (between sub-rectangular and sub-ovoid) with curved, rounded and angular corners, and small notch on one side. Small handle perforation (2mm.) in center of handle.

**Technique:** fairly deep curved circles and diagonal line with blunt edged and thin drill, faint incisions with thin drill; base holes (4mm. and 3mm.) perforated from base to back.

**Description:** two encircled holes, bored through, near corners with short parallel diagonal strokes on shorter sides near holes and diagonal line from edge to center on corner between the two holes.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** an almost identically based seal-pendant with an identical design and engraving technique was found in Tepe Gawra, level XX (Halaf period). Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 119. For further Halaf period pieces decorated with asymmetrical designs combining encircled holes with short lines or strokes cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 103 (seal-pendant, Arpatchiya), 128, 129 (seal-pendants, Tepe Gawra), (large round, convex base with cut-top handle, Tell Halaf).



155

**Object:** dark grey serpentine with encrustation on back, 34.5x34.5x15.5mm. High, thin, straight-sided loop-handle in center of slightly sloping back, not reaching back edges; slightly convex square base with rounded corners. Handle perforation (4mm.) in center of handle.

**Technique:** exquisite, fine, symmetrical work. Deep linear cut of two depths with sharp and blunt edged drill; deep base hole drilling (depth: 2.5mm.) with wider drill; handle perforation: drilled from both sides forming circular cavities in back on sides of handle top.

**Description:** rhomboid divided by central line forming two triangles (deep cut), large encircled drilled hole (hole: 4mm., encircling: 12 mm.) in center of each triangle (deep cut), field covered with lines pointing to center. The whole resembles stylized face.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-East Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** perforation technique as WFC No. 157. For an identical handle, handle position on back and seal cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 13. The carefully executed, developed design of this seal is of the same kind found on seals WFC Nos. 125, 127. However, on the present seal it is on a much larger scale. The present seals' design also incorporates encircled drilled holes similar to those found on WFC Nos. 156-7, but cut more carefully than WFC No. 157. The various geometric motifs composing the symmetrical "point group m" design on the present seal are all found in Halaf glyptic. For examples with encircled drilled holes cf. WFC Nos. 154, 157. For divided rhomboid; parallel lines pointed to center from two or more directions; and a combination of the two motifs, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 94, 95, 96, 98, 100 (seal-amulet-pendants, Arpatchiya), 112 (seal-amulet-pendant, Yarimtepe II), 155 (seal-amulet-pendant, Arpatchiya), 196 (loop-handled, square base, Yarimtepe II). Anthropomorphic seal-amulets are known from the late Aceramic Neolithic. These, together with zoomorphic seal-amulets occur frequently in Halaf glyptic but cease to be manufactured in the Ubaid period. The almost hypnotic draw of the "eyes" in the present seal have the same kind of abstract power presented in the Ceramic Neolithic seal-amulet featuring a face. Cf. *ibid.*: No. 28 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq A).



156

**Object:** black-green serpentine, 28.5x25.5x18.5mm. Low ridge handle in center of back, not reaching edges of back; thin, flat rectangular base with small notch in center of sides forming "semi-flower-shaped" base. Handle perforation (3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** few deep linear cuts (from notches) with sharp edged drill; fairly shallow cut with blunt edged drill; deep hole drilling (depth: 3mm.) with round(?) drill; handle perforation: drilled from both sides forming circular cavities on sloping sides of handle.

**Description:** five encircled drilled holes, one in center, one in each corner (hole: 4mm.; encircling: 7mm.) within hatched lines forming line-filled cruciform design.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North-East Syria-South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** seals' shape, size and design close to WFC No. 157 and especially to Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 14. Notched base shape close to WFC Nos. 23-4, but cf. also WFC No. 46. For the combination of encircled drilled holes and cruciform hatched lines cf. WFC Nos. 155, 157. Cf. also WFC Nos. 144, 158. For an identical handle and perforation technique cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 193 (Cavi Tarlasi, Halaf period); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 17.



157

**Object:** black-green serpentine, 30.5x26x10mm. Low, thin, loop handle, broken on one side, in center of thin back, not reaching back edges; rectangular base with rounded corners. Secondary, ancient perforation (4x4.5mm.), after breaking of original handle's top perforation (4mm. wide), pierced on remaining larger half of handle. Both perforations on short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with sharp edged drill, hole drilling (depth: 1.5mm.) with wider drill; both handle perforations: drilled from both sides forming circular cavities in back on side of handle top.

**Description:** double or triple line cross design, encircled drilled holes (hole: 3 or 4mm.; encircling: 8 or 9mm.) in quadrants. Additional vertical and horizontal lines in two quadrants; diagonal lines with few strokes framing other two quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf or early Ubaid periods, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the original perforation technique of the present seal's handle is a Halaf technique used to pierce small handles (ridge, loop and lug shaped) on square and rectangular seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 182, 184 (Tepe Gawra), 194, 195 (Cavi Tarlasi). For secondary perforation from Amuq A in a different technique cf. WFC No. 11. For encircled drilled holes on Halaf seal-pendants and circular based handled seals cf. above WFC No. 154. The "symmetrical point group 4mm" base design composed of an uneven number of crossing lines and line-filled in quadrants occurs already in the Hassuna-Samarra period, cf. ibid.: No. 44 (Yarimtepe). The "symmetrical point group 4mm" layout composed of cross with drilled circles in quadrants occurs for the first time in Halaf glyptic. Cf. ibid.: No. 206 (round base, Ras Shamra). An example of a square

or rectangular based small handled seal with four encircled holes not reaching base but arranged in square formation with or without central cross and/or stroke lines from edge has not been found in excavations. The nearest excavated example is dated to the early Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: No. 232 (Tell Kurdu). However, the four holes in the Tell Kurdu seal are not encircled and are bored through base. Cf. also ibid.: No. 214 (low pyramidal seal, rhomboid base, four encircled drilled holes not bored through base, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid). The early Ubaid examples seem to continue a Halaf tradition. Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 13 (loop handle on square base, curving lines about four holes not bored through base; linear fill); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 14 (bought Antioch, with lists), 15 (square base, one hole bored through, bought North Syria or Mesopotamia), 16 (shape and source as No. 15), 17 (similar shape, two drilled holes, bored through, in linear panels above: linear design of chevrons and diamonds, from El Mina).



158

**Object:** black serpentine, 12x11x6mm. Small, low loop handle, thin square base. Comparatively large perforation (3mm.) reaching base.

**Technique:** deep drilled holes; perforation technique as WFC No. 157.

**Description:** four encircled drilled holes (hole: 2mm.; encircling: 7mm.) forming quatrefoil design.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf or early Ubaid periods, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for three or four encircled holes as the only decoration on small seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 103 (seal-amulet-pendant, Arpatchiya, Halaf period), 214 (rhomboid shaped pearl seal, Tepe Gawra, level XVII, early Ubaid period). Cf. also the same design on a round based seal from Tepe Hissar in Von der Osten 1957: fig. 6.36.



159

**Object:** mottled grey-green serpentine, 14x14x9mm. Irregular low, thin loop handle in center of conoid back; round base. Comparatively large handle perforation (4mm.). Chipped on base and handle top.

**Technique:** drilled hole (1 or 2mm.) with round edged drill; handle perforation technique as No. 339.

**Description:** four holes (depth: 2mm.) in square

formation, two encircled (7mm.).

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, North-West Syria - South-West Anatolia, North Iraq

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. WFC No. 150 and especially Von Wickede 1990: No. 198 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). The motif of four drilled holes through base is a common motif on Amuq E seals, some with curving lines about the holes. Cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 13 (identical shape, larger size).



160

**Object:** mottled black serpentine, 33x17x6.5mm. Low pyramidal seal, elongated sub-ovoid base (close to rectangular with rounded corners). Broken above elongated ovoid perforation (7x9mm.) placed diagonally in center of back, on short axis. Secondary, round, ancient vertical perforation (7mm.) through base incised in center of original perforation.

**Technique:** thin linear cut with pointed drill and small drilled dots with round end drill; original back perforation cut from two sides; vertical perforation probably incised from base to back.

**Description:** three parallel lines dividing field into four zones partly crossed by one vertical line. All field filled with many small drill dots.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** seal shape and size suggest an early prehistoric date and origin. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 21 (Ras Shamra, Amuq A period), 23 (Wadi Hammam, Amuq A period), 173 (higher back cut on one side, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period). The plain "plane group p2mm" linear layout of the above design is also typical to Amuq A and Hassuna-Samara glyptic. It continues to be used in the Halaf and early Ubaid periods. The dot motif does not occur in 6th millennium stone glyptic. Small dots within few thin lines or haphazardly placed in center of radiating lines are found on Halaf and early Ubaid period pendants (as well as on handled seals). Cf. ibid.: Nos. 105 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period), 116 (Tepe Gawra, Halaf period), 215 (Tepe Gawra, level XVIII, early Ubaid period), Abb. 32.1 (Tepe Gawra, level XVI, early Ubaid period). For a similar pyramidal seal with many dots within radiating edge strokes cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 13 (bought North Syria). For secondary vertical perforation through base cf. WFC No. 161 below.



161

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 37.5x27x11mm. Handled ovoid. Two bulges of different height in center of sloping back (on right vestiges of large ridge[?] handle and on left of loop[?] handle). Low tunnel without top (3x11mm.) near lower right bulge (original ridge handle perforation?) and deeper perforation tunnel with broken top (4x10mm.) in center of higher and rounder left bulge (secondary loop handle perforation cut on vestiges of original handle?). Both perforations on short axis. Ancient vertical perforation drilled through base (on back: 4mm., on base: 5x6mm.) in center of "loop handle" perforation, slightly off center of base. Oval base with slightly irregular contour. Chipped on base, broken handles and broken above second(?) perforation tunnel inside original "loop handle".

**Technique:** deep open-grooved linear cut with pointed edged drill and small pointed drill for dots; first back perforation's tunnel cut with rounded and pointed drills unevenly from two sides and narrowing to center to form thin ring in center of hole; "loop-handle" perforation tunnel probably cut from two sides without central ring, with rounded drill; vertical base perforation cut from base to top with large perfectly round drill.

**Description:** back: many shallow, small drilled dots arranged in haphazard groups, one small stroke. Base: angle-filled diagonal cross formed from two parallel lines crossed by one line with central perforation hole cutting through design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid), North Iraq (or Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** large seals of this shape with flat base are rarely found after the early Ubaid period and than only in Northern glyptic. Secondary vertical perforation through base pierced after the breaking of original handle occurs already in the Hassuna-Samara period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 256-7, note 10, Abb. 30.2 (Tell Hassuna), 233 (Tell Kurdu, Amuq E, early Ubaid period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Fig. 68:1 (Amuq B). A cross formed of two or more parallel lines on an ovoid based ridge handle seal is found in the Hassuna-Samara period, cf. ibid.: No. 44 (Yarimtepe I). The angle-filled cross is most common on later Ubaid seals. For examples of the angle-filled cross with two or three angles in quadrants cut in similar deep linear style cf. ibid.: No. 511 (large ridge handled, round convex based "button" seal, Faruqabad, later Ubaid period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 83 (ovoid pearl seal, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Gawra period); Amiet 1972: Nos. 33

(broken "button" seal, Susa A), 34 (irregular large "button" seal, broken handle, secondary perforation through lenticular oval, convex base, baked clay, Susa A). For the motif on handled seals cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 22-3 (later 6th-early 5th millennium, with lists). This seal's uncommon combination of shape and design point to different periods and make it difficult to date the piece. The seal is probably an example of the continued use of early prehistoric handled seal shapes in later glyptic exhibiting an early depiction of the angle-cross motif.



162

**Object:** shining black serpentine with brown patina on back, 32.5x25x21.5mm. Cylinder-handle on low flat rectangular back with rounded corners, grooved below handle; rectangular base with rounded corners. Handle perforation (5x6mm.) on long axis. Slightly chipped on base.

**Technique:** sharp linear cut with large drill and thinner drill with pointed end, round edged drill for head; inward diagonal cut and slightly polished around handle perforation (cut and hole: 9x10mm.).

**Description:** feline animal (leopard or wild cat) facing right with lowered head, long raised and curled tail, four legs of uneven length, with line (spray?) above and front and small drilled dot in front.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium (or second or middle of 4th millennium), early Ubaid period (or later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Ubaid period), North Iraq, North Syria - South-West Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the stamp seal with a cylinder handle appears in the Halaf period but like many other Halaf shapes probably continued to be used also in the early Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 90 (round base, Arpatchiya, Halaf period). Dot headed caprines with thin linear legs appear on early Ubaid pendants from Tepe Gawra, cf. ibid.: Nos. 222, 223. For schematic quadrupeds without dot head cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 75 (hemispheroid, lion over snake, North Mesopotamia); Buchanan/Moorey: Nos. 62 (hemispheroid, horned animal, dot and lines in field, bought Asia Minor), 63 (hemispheroid, mouflon[?], bought Karaj Oren, North Syria); WFC No. 397 (gable seal). The motif, layout and base size of the present seal also show close affiliations to some later Ubaid period and Gawra/early Uruk period motifs, layout and to large

gable seals' base size. Thus, a date in post Ubaid 3 Northern glyptic can not be exclude for this specimen. However, since no later prehistoric stamp seal with such a large or even with a smaller cylinder handle has come to light in excavations we prefer the earlier date.

163



**Object:** black serpentine, 26x22x9mm. Low, irregular, wide rounded handle with slightly slanting top in center of sloping, uneven sub-triangular back with rounded corners; irregular sub-triangular base with rounded corners. Elongated ovoid perforation (3.5x7mm.) reaching back, on short axis. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** deep, sharp cut with angular drill and fine linear drill, few small drilled dots; perforation holes from both sides.

**Description:** animal to left, head turned back, long neck, three legs, small raised tail, with serpent(?) in front, chevron above.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid period, North Iraq (or Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** excavated triangular shaped handled seals are found only in Ceramic Neolithic glyptic. Cf. WFC No. 12. Handle shape and position on back is a typical feature of Hassuna-Samara rectangular and ovoid based seals and is sporadically found in Halaf and early Ubaid periods. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 41, 51, 52; WFC No. 52. The engraving technique of this seal which combines few small dots with "point group 1" layout of animals is a feature of early Ubaid glyptic found on pearls and pendant-seals from Tepe Gawra. In this group we also encounter for the first time, simple filling motives beside individual animals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 218 (filling motif), 220 (technique and animal with head turned back), 222 (technique), 223 (technique and identical head). The present seal is probably another example of the continued use of earlier shapes in early Ubaid glyptic.

#### 4. Small and minute seals of various shapes with various base shapes with central drilled dot, radiating cruciform and linear designs



164

**Object:** green-black, 15x11x6.5mm. Low irregular loop handle with very thin top, in center of back, grooved on sides; thin ovoid base straightly cut on one side. Comparatively large, elongated handle perforation (5x6mm.) incised on back, on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear work and drilled dot through thin base (2mm.) with sharp pointed drill.

**Description:** "wheel" design with central drilled hole through base. Eleven spokes radiating around central hole.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early North Ubaid period, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** radiating symmetrical designs of "point group n" ("wheel") layout begin to appear in the Halaf period and continue into the early Ubaid era. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 263. An almost identical design to the present occurs on a truncated oval impression from Tepe Gawra, level XVI, but see also the design on a Chagar Bazar pendant of the Halaf period. Cf. Homes-Fredericq, 1970; Figs. 9 (Tell Gawra), 304 (Chagar Bazar). For a similarly shaped seal with developed criss-cross design from Amuq B cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 101:2. For similar design on Hissar IC small ridge handle seal cf. Schmidt 1937: No. H4508.

165

**Object:** black serpentine with brown patina, 14x13x7.5mm. Irregular loop handle above conoidal back (close to carinated hemispheroid), grooved above base, ovoid base. Large, elongated perforation (3.5x5mm.), on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear work with thin, pointed drill, drilled dot (2.5mm.) with larger, round drill.

**Description:** radiating design. Semi-cross with central drilled dot, radiating strokes and two diagonal lines forming triangle in halffield.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf or early North Ubaid, North Syria, North Iraq, Ubaid period.

**Discussion/comparanda:** base shape, cutting technique and design almost identical to WFC No. 142 (thin handled discoid) and to a low handled seal from Arpatchiya, cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 203 (Halaf period). For a similar design without the central drilled dot cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 311 (Chagar Bazar, Halaf period). For similar shape and design cf. also Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 101:5; Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 189.1 (small carinated hemispheroid, Halaf period, 5th millennium).

166

**Object:** white limestone, 14x13x6mm. Low pyramidal back with rounded back contours, rectangular base with rounded corners and wide notches on wide sides. Perforated below top to form very thin rounded top sub- "ear handle", on short axis. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** shallow linear and rounded cut with fairly blunt drills; rounded perforation from both sides of back.

**Description:** encircled eight-rayed "star" or "flower" with central drilled dot (0.5mm.), "Wheel?" design.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf or early Ubaid, North Syria, North Mesopotamia, or Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** size and perforation technique typical to Halaf period glyptic. Shape dates the piece either to the Halaf period or to the early Ubaid period. For the motif in Halaf glyptic cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 66 (three impressions, Arpatchiya). For variations of the design cf. WFC Nos. 215-6.



167

**Object:** black serpentine, 16x16x10mm. Low triangular handle above flat back, grooved on sides of handle, round base. Handle perforation (4.5mm.). Central drilled hole (depth: 3mm.) through base reaching center of handle perforation.

**Technique:** fairly deep curved linear cut with thick drill, shallow linear cut with thin very thin, pointed edged drill, base hole with middle size rounded drill.

**Description:** encircled drilled hole (encircling: 11mm.) through base with radiating strokes on edge. Rosette.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or probably early Ubaid period, North Iraq, Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape dates this seal to the Halaf period at the earliest or to the early Ubaid period at the latest. For Halaf period cf. Von Wickede 1990: 257, Tab. 3, Nos. 200 (shape, Cavi Tarla), 201 (shape, Arpatchiya), 203 (shape, Arpatchiya), 204 (shape and same design but for a cross instead of a drilled hole in center, Ras Shamra). For similar design with out the drilled hole on a small button seal cf. ibid.: No. 229 (Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period). For an identical rosette design on a larger pointed top conoid with convex base from Tepe Gawra, cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 31 (level XII-Well, later Ubaid period) and on a smaller conoid cf. WFC No. 168 below. For identical designs on "button" seals with round bases from Luristan, Susa and Hissar IIA cf. Delaporte 1920: No. S.88

(see there also No. S. 89, hemispheroid with similar design, Susa); Schmidt 1937: No. H 1785 (clay, "pinched" conoid, slightly different shape, Hissar IIA); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 187 (second on top row, Dum-Gar-Parchinah, Luristan). The rosette motif frequently occurs on the backs of late Prehistoric hemispheroids in relief from Tell Brak. Cf. Mallon 1947: Pl. XVII, Nos. 6, 7, 27 (without the central drilled dot, plain bases), Pl. XX, Nos. 3 (without the central drilled dot, animal base design), 5 (= Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 145, "steatite", identical design in relief, three part swirl base design).



168

**Object:** black serpentine, 14x14x11mm. Short conoid with pointed top, round base. Small perforation (3mm.) below top.

**Technique:** fairly deep curved linear cut with thick drill, shallow linear cut with very thin, pointed edged drill; base hole (2mm.) with medium size rounded drill.

**Description:** encircled drilled dot with radiating strokes on edge. Rosette.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium-first half of 4th millennium, Halaf period or probably early Ubaid period (or beginning of later Ubaid period), North Iraq, Syria-South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 150. An identical design decorates the base of a larger pointed top conoid with convex base from Tepe Gawra, level XIII. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 31 (dated to Ubaid II period). Conoids are rare shapes in later Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 254. The size and flat base of the present pointed conoid and its overall resemblance to WFC No. 167 above suggest an early Ubaid date rather than a later Ubaid one.



169

**Object:** grey-black serpentine, 15x15x12mm. Button-shaped seal, with low "ridge" handle of perfect symmetry, round convex base. Large perforation (6mm.) incised on back.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin, pointed edge drill, large drilled dot (4mm.) with round, globular drill; perforation from both sides narrowing in center.

**Description:** drilled dot off center with radiating strokes from edge.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period, (probably later Ubaid), Iran (probably Tepe Giyan), North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape developed out of the small conoids or handled "buttons" of the Halaf period, but is most popular during the Ubaid period, mainly in South-West Iran and South Iraq. In the North the shape is found only occasionally. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 257, Tab. 3, Nos. 207 (close shape, Tell Halaf, Halaf period), 229 (similar shape and size, similar base design without central dot, Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period); Amiet, Nos. 8 (identical shape, different design, Susa A or earlier, probably early Ubaid period), 35 (identical shape, different design, Susa A). For a central drilled hole of identical cut and size on a similar convex based "button" seal from Susa A, cf. Amiet 1972: No. 22. The motif occurs throughout prehistoric glyptic since the later 6th millennium. However, it is most frequent in North Ubaid glyptic. For the motif on flat based handled seals of similar size cf. WFC Nos. 164-5. For this layout on gabled hemispheroids and other hemispheroids from different eras cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 89 (convex base, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Gawra/early Uruk period); Buchanan 1981: Nos. 27 (slightly larger than present piece, identical design and cut of central hole, said to be from Tepe Giyan), 28 (identical size, design and cut of central hole, said to be from Tepe Giyan, with comparison to AMI 5, fig. 13, TG 2406); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 26 (hemispheroid with six holes in top, probably for inlay, probably from North Syria, later prehistoric), 140 (collared ovoid, Tell Brak, Brak B672, with lists, early Jamdet Nasr period); WFC Nos. 191, 215.

See Buchanan/Moorey 1984: 27 for the Iranian tradition of button seals and the synchronisation of the glyptic levels III.4-5 at Tepe Sialk, Tepe Giyan Vc, Tepe Hissar IB-C and middle to late Susa A. See there also about the links between the glyptic of Susa B with Amuq F.



170

**Object:** black serpentine, 13x12.5x7mm. Low loop-handle in center of back, grooved above base; sub-round base with small angular notches from base design forming four petalled flower-shaped base. Comparatively large handle perforation (4x5mm.) drilled on back, on long axis.

**Technique:** deep linear cut; perforation from both sides reaching back and narrowing in center of handle.

**Description:** cross cutting to edges of round base.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, North Iraq, Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC 159, 165 (with grooved back). For a more pronounced four-

petalled base cf. WFC No. 130. The simple cross as the only base design is one of the oldest glyptic motifs and in itself can not date the piece. For the earliest excavated example cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 3 (square base, Ras-Shamra, Neolithic). For the motif of a deep cut cross with dot in quadrants on a similarly shaped seal cf. ibid.: No. 206 (Ras-Shamra, Halaf period). For the motif on small, low hemispheroids seals cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 51 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period); Amiet 1972: No. 83 (Susa A); No. 248. Cf. also ibid.: No. 191. For small blunt-ended ovoids with faint cross on an irregular base from Jamdet Nasr, Jamdet Nasr period cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 408; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 202 (with lists).

The simple cross motif had from its earliest appearance an amuletic value. It seems to have been one of the earliest protective signs and by extension also a marking of ownership. The primary purpose of the earliest seals and small size seals decorated with the simple cross, such as the present piece, was mainly personal. However, the main purpose of the later and larger stamp seals (hemispheroids, tabloids etc.) from the later Ubaid and Uruk periods depicting one or more simple crosses was probably administrative. Modern research has suggested that by the later 4th millennium and during the 3rd millennium the cross motif was one of the signs which symbolized merchandise. Cf. Collon 1993: 13 "For example, a small clay disc with a cross incised on it stood for wool." For the connections between hollow clay balls and small clay discs and stamp seals and the earliest use of cylinder seals cf. ibid.: 13, 113.



111

**Object:** dark grey-green serpentine, 12x11.5x9mm. Conoid with large, elongated perforation below rounded top (close to loop-handle), fairly round base. Handle perforation (4x5mm.) drilled on back on short axis.

**Technique:** faint linear cut with very thin, pointed edge drill.

**Description:** two lozenges bisected by central line (two eyes?), with double chevrons on sides.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, North Iraq, Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** a typical Halaf and early Ubaid glyptic shape. Cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 7 (bought North coast of Syria). The rigid "point group m" layout on the base of this seal is most popular in Halaf period and is close to the "point group mm2" layout typical to Halaf and later Ubaid periods. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 295 (round based lug handled seal, Ras Shamra, Halaf period). For the double "eye" motif cf. ibid.: No. 217 (Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). Similar designs occur also on later seals from Susa cf. Delaporte 1920: Nos. S.31t (slightly larger, baked clay), S.49b; Amiet 1972: Nos. 249 (small "button"

seal with convex base and small ridge handle, Susa B), 256 (small hemispheroid, Susa B); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 200, 4-5, 8. Cf. also the similar design on WFC No. 244.



112

**Object:** black-dark brown serpentine, 14.5x13.5x8mm. Short, thin loop-handle above pyramidal back, rectangular base with fairly rounded corners. Small handle perforation (3mm.) reaching back on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear cut with thin drills with pointed edges.

**Description:** line-filled cross with parallel strokes from edges of three quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, North Iraq, Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to small square based handled seals most popular in Halaf period but found also in the early Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 256-7. For the base decoration cf. ibid.: Nos. 177 (identical design and cut, small handle seal with ovoid base, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: Figs. 8 (irregular pyramid, round base, Tepe Gawra, level XVI, early Ubaid period), 82 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, end of later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 101:3 (small loop handle above sloping back, ovoid base Amuq F?, Gawra period or earlier); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 21 (button-shaped, 'pinched' at perforation, bought Cilicia); WFC No. 63 (conoid).



113

**Object:** black-green serpentine, 16x15x8mm. Low pyramidal back, irregular rectangular base with rounded and angular corners. Perforation (3mm.) reaching back forming sub-loop handle, on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin, pointed edge drill; drilled base hole (2mm) with round edged drill; ovoid cut around perforation hole on handle and back (cut and hole: 6x7mm.).

**Description:** line-filled cross with uneven number of edge strokes in quadrants and central drill dot.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, North Iraq, Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for an identical design on a larger wide handled seal with ovoid base cf. WFC No. 54. For similar designs cf. also WFC Nos. 211, 237, 279, 300.



114

**Object:** black serpentine, 15x13.5x5.5mm. Low pyramidal back, thin rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (4mm. wide; 10mm. length of tunnel) incised on back, on short axis. About one third of base, back, top and most of handle top broken.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin drills with pointed edges, drilled dots (3mm.) with rounded edged drill; rounded perforation from both sides narrowing to small hole in center.

**Description:** line-filled cross with drilled dot in each quadrant near center.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period (or early Ubaid period), North Iraq, Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape until the early Ubaid period. For pyramid of identical shape, larger size but with straight corners cf. WFC No. 44. Granted the continued manufacture of Halaf period shapes during the early Ubaid period (and in Northern glyptic sporadically also into later Ubaid glyptic) it is safe to assume that a rounded corners pyramid of this seals' shape could have also continued to be manufactured occasionally during the early Ubaid period. For dot-filled cross on handled seal cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 206 (Ras Shamra, Halaf period). For pendants with elements of this pyramid's base design from Tepe Gawra, level XVI (early Ubaid period), cf. ibid.; Abb. 32.1 (five drilled holes with edge strokes), 2 (line-filled cross). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 26 (disk with high sides cut into flat base, similar design without edge strokes, said to be from Tepe Giyan); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 185.6, 208.6, 209.5 (small button seals with convex base, dot-filled cross designs); Amiet 1972: No. 59 (baked clay, button seal, dot-cross design, Susa A). The pyramid shaped seal is rare in Susiana, and probably indicates a Northern origin.



115

**Object:** black-green slate, 17x13x9mm. Squat pyramidal back, with curved top, round side contours, sub-rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation near top (4x5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size drill with very sharp, pointed edge.

**Description:** line-filled cross. Diagonal cross with alternating parallel lines roughly radiating in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th-early 4th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period(?) or Ubaid period, North-West Syria - South-East Iran, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for close shape cf. WFC No. 42. Pyramidal seals of this shape are rare in post-Halaf glyptic and are virtually non existant in south Mesopotamia and south-west Iran. Cf. Von Wickede 190: 254, note 4. The design ("symmetrical rotating point group 4" layout) probably developed out of the more complicated, though similar Halaf period designs. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 7, Nos. 77 (impression, Arpatchiya), 80 (impression, Tepe Gawra). However, in its pure form, as on this seal, the design is first found in excavated material in Ubaid 3 glyptic. During the later Ubaid period this layout is one of the most common designs on round based seals of various shapes. The motif continues to appear also in the later Uruk period and occurs even later. For similar or identical designs on pyramids cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 8 (round base, close design, Tepe Gawra, level XVI, early Ubaid period), 50 (square base, Tepe Gawra, level XII, late Ubaid period). Base design close to WFC No. 217 (lentoid).



116

**Object:** mottled black serpentine, 6x5x13mm. Tall, thin conoid pendant-seal, segmented into three parts by two grooves: long oval handle with flat, cut top; thin slightly projecting "cable-ring"; thinner oval. Oval base. Small perforation (2mm.) near top of handle, on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with very thin drill with pointed end.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period, or Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid), Syria (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** size, shape and the relation of this small conoid to Halaf period pendants suggest the Halaf period as the most likely cultural era for the manufacture of this seal. Its similarity in shape and size to WFC Nos. 177-8, as well as to the many variations of small handled seals or sub-conoids typical of Halaf and early Ubaid periods, suggest that all these three small pieces in the WFC were manufactured in the same area and era. The conoid shaped stamp seal is comparatively rare during the Ubaid period. However, these three small conoids probably represent the continued "low key" manufacture of the conoid shape in Syria (or North Iraq) during the Ubaid period and especially during the early phase of this culture. For similar shape and size cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 101.4

(First Mixed Range, Judeideh, Amuq E?)

Sixteen bone pendants of very similar shape and identical size with an undecorated base, were found mixed in with the human fingers of burial X516 in Judeideh, Amuq F level. They may have served as finger pendants. Cf. *Ibid.*: 256-8, fig. 193:6. For same design and cut on a larger conoid cf. WFC No. 194.



171

**Object:** dark grey serpentine with cream-brown calcification, 8x7x13mm. Small conoid or stalk with pointed top above wider round base with notch formed by base design. Grooved above base. Small perforation (2mm.) below top.

**Technique:** two depths linear cut with fairly thick and thin drills.

**Description:** line-filled cross with two strokes from edge, in each quadrant.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period, or early Ubaid period, Syria (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similar shape cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 12 (larger). Design and engraving technique most common in Halaf period. For examples on conoid and sub-conoid cf. WFC Nos. 193, 195. For similar notched base resulting from cross engraved on base cf. WFC No. 170.



178

**Object:** black serpentine, 9x7x12mm. Conoid with tall "loop-handle" above sloping back, oval base. Grooved above base. Comparatively large elongated handle perforation (4x3.5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** two depths of shallow linear cut with thin drills.

**Description:** "leaf" or line-filled cross design. Central line with irregular diagonal and vertical strokes off it.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period, or early Ubaid period, Syria (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 177 above and especially to Halaf period small cut-top conoids with longer loop-handle. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 198 (similar base design, Arpatchiya). Cf. also the small seal with similar base design in Braidwood/Braidwood

1960: fig. 101:4 (First Mixed Range, purchased, Amuq E?) and the similarly shaped seal in *Ibid.*: fig. 379:9 (line-filled cross, Second Mixed Range, unstratified).

Similarly shaped seals with different base engraving style and designs are found in the Levant in the 12th century B.C. Cf. Keel-Leu 1991: Nos. 63-4 (with lists).



179

**Object:** black serpentine, 9x8x6.5mm. Sub-conoidal with thin loop or lug "handle" raising from sides of back, with slightly truncated back on sides of "handle", oval base. Comparatively large, elongated handle perforation (3.3mm.); with back cut: 5mm. long) reaching back, on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin drill with pointed end.

**Description:** cross, line and chevron within linear frame on wider sides.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period, or early Ubaid period, Syria (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape very close to WFC No. 171, but with thinner back. For similar base designs on pyramidal seals cf. WFC Nos. 182-3.



180

**Object:** black serpentine, 12x9x14mm. Sub pyramidal seal with thin ridge handle with straight top growing directly from pyramidal back with rounded contours, irregular rectangular base with rounded corners. Pear-shaped "handle" perforation (3.4mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with very thin drill; cut around perforation on handle and back from both sides (cut and hole: 5x6mm.).

**Description:** grid criss-cross design with lines unevenly spaced.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period or Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid period), Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for identical perforation technique and same base design on larger conoid cf. WFC No. 194. For small seals of similar shape cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191:4 (pyramidal seal with straight back contours, angle-filled base design, Amuq F); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 7 (round base and rounder handle, similar base design, bought North coast of Syria).



181

**Object:** dark grey-green serpentine, 11.5x10x8.5mm. Small irregular conoid with pointed top, truncated on one side of back (close to loop-handled seal), oval base. Comparatively large perforation (4mm.) reaching back, on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with middle size drill; perforation from two sides narrowing in center to small hole.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with small triangle or angle within angle in quadrant.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period, Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape mid-way between conoid and low loop-handled or lug-handled seal. Perforation technique typical to small Halaf period "button" seals and rare after the early Ubaid period. Shape close to WFC No. 151, but smaller. However, the angle-filled cross motif is commonly found in later glyptic (from later Ubaid onwards). Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 191:4 (truncated conoid or small pyramid different perforation technique, similar base design, Amuq F), 253:4 (small conoid, different perforation technique, same base design, Amuq G).

**WFC Nos. 182-5** are small pyramids with rectangular bases and almost careless, thin, linear base decorations. They are characterized by parallel diagonal lines with additional linear elements. These four seals have close affinities in shape, size and design with the later 6th-first half of 5th millennium, Amuq B or North-West Syria Halaf period pyramids, but their cut is more careless and most of them have less angular back contours and base corners. For similar pieces with much more careful base decorations cf. WFC Nos. 43-4. Occasional small pyramids of similar size are also found in later periods in Northern sites. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1979: fig. 28 (very low pyramid, diagonal lines with diagonal strokes in opposite direction not crossing and wide frame lines on elongated sides Tepe Gawra, level XIII, Ubaid II = Von Wickede 1990: No. 500, later Ubaid period), 50 (bone, different perforation, diagonal criss-cross, Tepe Gawra, level XII, later Ubaid period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 191:3 (similar linear design, Amuq F, Gawra/early Uruk period), 253:3 (different linear design and layout, Amuq G, Uruk period). The origin of this group of pyramids is in the same region and they are the product of the same era. They probably date from the Halaf period, or alternatively may be seen as examples of the continuation of Amuq B to Halaf period traditions in Greater Syria during the Ubaid period by the manufacturers of pyramid seals.



182

**Object:** dark grey-black serpentine, 13.5x11x5mm. Low pyramid with sharp back contours, rectangular base with angular and slightly rounded corners. Large perforation (6x5mm.) cutting greatly into back until base, on short axis, to form sub-loop handle.

**Technique:** fine, shallow linear cut with very thin drill; round perforation from both sides, narrowing in center.

**Description:** diagonal line crossed by five diagonal lines in center with horizontal, parallel lines not crossing diagonal lines. Two vertical lines on short edges.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period (or Ubaid period), Syria, (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape, angular back contours and technique very close to WFC No. 43. For a small pyramid with similar base design cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191:3 (Amuq F), however its fine base design suggests an earlier date.



183

**Object:** pink, light brown, cream marble, 16x10x8mm. Low pyramid with fairly rounded back contours and pointed top, rectangular base with angular and slightly rounded corners. Comparatively large perforation (4mm.) off center of back, slightly reaching back, on short axis.

**Technique:** two depths of shallow linear cut with very thin, pointed edged drills; perforation cut from both sides with incomplete circle cut and polished around hole (cut and hole: 7x5mm.).

**Description:** three parallel diagonal lines crossing shallower diagonal lines (criss-cross design) framed by vertical line on each short side of base.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period (or Ubaid period), Syria, (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 182 above, but less symmetrical and refined and with rounder back contours. Cf. pyramid seal of similar shape, size and base design in Pittman/Anuz 1988: No. 2 (North Mesopotamia or North Syria, late 5th-early 4th millennium).

184



**Object:** dark brown serpentine, 14x10x8mm. Low pyramid back with rounded back contours, rectangular base with angular and rounded corners. Comparatively large perforation (4x4.5mm.) incised into back, in center of back, on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size drill with sharp edge and faint strokes with very thin drill.

**Description:** three parallel diagonal lines with diagonal lines in opposite directions on sides (or two chevrons with divider in center) with horizontal, parallel lines not crossing diagonal lines framed by diagonal line on one edge.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period (or Ubaid period), Syria, (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as above WFC No. 183, design as WFC No. 182.



Side A

Side C

Side D

Base

186

**Object:** dark green slate, 18x10x30mm. Sub-pyramidal back with sharp, thin top, flat wide sides, curved narrow sides, rectangular base with rounded and angular corners. Comparatively very small perforation hole (3x2.5mm.) off center below pointed top, on short axis with beginning of enlargement of hole (2mm.) but not carried through, on one side. Celt shaped seal(-pendant?). Decorated on all four sides and base. Parts of stone left unpolished.

**Technique:** rather shallow linear cut on side B; fairly deep cut on other sides with medium size drill; very deep base cut with large angular implement and shallower linear cut with medium size drill. Small round drill dot near present perforation hole, designed as beginning(?) of larger perforation, but not drilled through.

**Description:** side A (wide): irregular criss-cross design. Vertical lines evenly spaced crossed by diagonal lines in one direction evenly spaced with few irregular horizontal and diagonal lines in other direction. Vertical lines continuing to narrow sides. Side B (narrow): many short diagonal and vertical lines irregularly arranged forming some lozenges. Side C (wide): comparatively few vertical lines crossed by few diagonal lines and strokes. Two large fields left unpolished and undecorated. Side D (narrow): parallel vertical lines, evenly spaced, some ending in diagonal lines. Base: goat or gazelle. Deep, wide vertical body with secondary strokes on its borders forming "fish-bone" pattern. One short, curved horn. Four linear legs (two straight forelegs; two diagonal hind legs). Small cross behind legs; line in front of legs.

**Date/origin:** first half 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period, North Syria, East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the seal's material - slate - points to a northern origin such as the area to the West of the Caspian Sea where slate is found. No identically shaped seal has been found in excavations. Sharp top pyramidal seals are post-Ceramic Neolithic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 91. The few pyramidal seals from the Halaf period are of diverse shapes, some with pointed tops. Most of them have in common with the present seal an elongated ovoid or rectangular base with round corners. Cf. Ibid.: Nos. 173 (base design same as side designs of present seal, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period), 174 (Yarimtepe, Halaf period), 175 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). An unperforated seal of similar shape and size was found in Tell Halaf. Cf. Von Oppenheim, 1943; Pl. XXXVIII, No. TH 735. Cf. also an irregular backed pyramidal seal of similar shape and size to our piece, with grid criss-cross base design in Von der Osten 1957: No. 61 (bought Aleppo). In their shape two triangular



185

**Object:** dark brown-black serpentine, 14x13x11mm. Low pyramid back with rounded back contours, pointed top, square base with rounded corners. Comparatively large perforation (4x5mm.) incised into back near top.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium and small size drills with pointed ends; perforation from two sides slightly narrowing in center of hole.

**Description:** linear design. Two diagonal, parallel lines crossed by six diagonal parallel lines. Small angular frame on one corner.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period (or Ubaid period), Syria, (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** central design close to above pyramids. For identical shape and size cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 176 (Chagar Bazar, Halaf period). For pyramid with truncated top of similar size and framed base design cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 50 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Tg. 50, later Ubaid period)

5. Larger pyramids, triangular seal, rhomboid seals and related shapes

amulet-seal-pendants of Halaf date are also close to the present piece, although they are much thinner, their small perforations are placed near the top in a similar place but they are less densely decorated with linear designs than the present piece. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 141 (decorated on both sides, Cave Tarlasi), 144 (Arpatchiya). The linear designs on the sides of the present seal are combinations of "plane group p211, p2mm, c2mm, p4mm" layouts adjusted to this seal's contours and point to many directions. These combinations and adjustments are a common feature of Halaf glyptic (found mainly on amulet-seal-pendants). For similar combinations of linear designs from the Halaf period cf. ibid.: Abbs. 9, 11, 12, Nos. 78 (triangular impression, Arpatchiya), 105 (seal-pendant, Arpatchiya) 110, 111, 114 (seal-pendants, Yarimtepe), 145 (triangular seal-pendant, Arpatchiya), 155 (decorated on both sides, Arpatchiya), 161 (foot-shaped seal-pendant, Arpatchiya). The sharp, deep and angular engraving style of the schematized horned animal represented on the base of the present seal is very crude and has, in its crudity and animal's leg formation, some affinity with the two animals depicted on a Halaf period handled seal cf. ibid.: No. 82 (Yarimtepe II). Cf. also ibid.: No. 83 (Yarimtepe III).

For undecorated pieces of similar shape and size from the Amuq: pendant crudely made with single bored perforation found in Amuq F level at Judeideh; broken pendant or seal with single bored perforation found at Judeideh in the First Mixed Range; smaller and narrower "celt-shaped" pendant from Amuq G cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 100:13 (schist, celt pendant, undecorated, Amuq G? but possibly earlier), 190:7 (one wide side is ground, one wide side was left in its natural rough state, side edges are ground, thin upper edge, undecorated pendant or scraping tool, Amuq F), 252:30 (undecorated, Amuq G).



181

**Object:** black volcanic stone, 22x20x12mm. Pyramidal with one straight back facet and two slanting back facets ending in small sub-triangular rounded facet, all with fairly rounded back contours and sharp apex forming sub-triangular pyramidal back, half-circle groove below small facet; ovoid base truncated on one side with two rounded corners. Elongated oval perforation (4x6mm.) below center of back, off center, near straight back side, on long side. Back resembles unidentified animal (or fish) shaped head face represented frontally: perforation holes acting as "eyes", groove as "mouth" and two small drilled holes above groove as "nostrils".

**Technique:** fairly deep, regular linear drill cut with medium size drill with very sharp edge and small, shallow drilled dots with rounded edge drill; rounded perforation on back from both sides slightly narrowing in center of tunnel,

pierced on back.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design with lines reaching edge on one side and leaving other side of field empty. Five drilled dots, each in center of criss-cross rectangle, forming "L" pattern.

**Date/origin:** uncertain date, probably 5th millennium, Halaf period (or pre-Halaf period), Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to Amuq A triangular pyramidal seals and base shape identical or close to the irregular ovoid bases of Amuq A handled seals. Cf. especially Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 17 (Tell Judeideh), 23 (Wadi Hammam). The criss-cross "plane group p2mm" design occurs throughout the Ceramic Neolithic period as well as during the Halaf period. However, drilled dots are unknown in Amuq A glyptic. In the Amuq B/Hassuna-Sammarra era drilled depressions are found only as individual dots in center of base decoration. Small drilled dots arranged in conjunction with criss-cross or other linear designs are frequently found in the Halaf period on pendants and impressions. They continue to appear in the early Ubaid period. Cf. ibid., Nos. 64, 72, 115 (Arpatchiya), 116 (Tepe Gawra), 120 (Tell Hassan), 140 (Arpatchiya), 213, 215 (Tepe Gawra). For criss-cross design with drilled dots cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 12 (oblong stalk, early Ubaid period). The present triangular pyramid in the form of a beautifully shaped head is probably an amulet-seal. Anthropomorphic and zoomorphic amulets and amulet-seals occur in Neolithic glyptic from Palestine and South Syria and in the Halaf periods in the areas that came under the influence of that culture. The earlier pieces are usually with undecorated bases and some of them have rounded contours. The Halaf period pieces are sculptured in the round and decorated on base. None are identical to the present piece. For Neolithic examples cf. ibid.: Abb. 19.1 (Jericho), 2 (Tell Mareyabet), 3 (animal head with perforation technique close to present piece, Tell al-Kaum), Nos. 1 (rounded contours, criss-cross base design, Ras Shamra), 28 (head? Tell Judeideh). For Halaf period examples with decorated bases cf. ibid.: Nos. 163 (Arpatchiya), 164 (Gogjali), 165 (Chagar Bazar). The late Uruk period animal head amulet-seals differ greatly from the present example in their shape, style and cutting technique for they are represented in profile with rounder volumes, and are more naturalistic.



188

**Object:** black-green serpentine, 25x21.5x15.5mm. Pyramid with three-facet triangular back and smaller fourth back facet with sharp angular contours; triangular base with angular corners. Perforation (5mm.) near apex on two facets, on short axis. Viewed from this angle the back

resembles a stylized face. One broken base corner.

**Technique:** fine and symmetrical linear cut of two depths with medium size drills with slightly pointed edges, drilled dots with rounded drill; perforation from two sides of back narrowing in center, reaching back.

**Description:** line-filled triangles with two encircled drilled holes side by side in center. Three lines from corners to center comparatively deeply cut, divide field to three triangles filled with parallel lines in two directions.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq, (or Syria-South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** this is a rare seal shape and the only triangular-pyramid backed seal with sharp angular back contours in the WFC. Cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: XIV. In its sharp back and base contours the present triangular pyramid is close both to low pyramid seals such as WFC Nos. 88, 194, and to pyramidal seals from Tell Chagar Bazar (cf. Mallowen 1936, Iraq 3: Ch 4, fig. 7) and from Tell Halaf (cf. Von Oppenheim 1943: Pl. XXXVIII, Th 668). Pyramidal seals with three or four back facets are a common Amuq A feature. However, in this period their back contours and triangular base corners are rounded. Sharp back contour pyramidal seals begin to appear in the later Ceramic Neolithic era. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 91, Nos. 23 (Wadi Hammam, Amuq A), 24 (Tell Qaminas, transitional between Amuq A and B periods). However, the very sharp back contours and sharp angular base corners of the present triangular pyramid find their closest parallels in Halaf period triangular pendants and WFC No. 186 pyramid. Linear base designs combined with encircled drilled dots of various sizes are also a prominent feature of Halaf period glyptic and occasionally appear also in the early Ubaid period. Cf. low handled squarish based seals Nos. 155-7 (with lists) and especially ibid.: Nos. 128, 129 (large pendants, Tepe Gawra, level XX). For triangular layout of parallel lines cf. ibid.: No. 148 (triangular pendant, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period).



189

**Object:** layered cream, orange, pink marble with cream-light brown encrustation on one back side, 28x19x18mm. High pyramid with rounded back corners, thin, elongated top with rounded corners (shape from narrow side close to conoidal); sub-rectangular base with rounded corners (close to ovoid base). Comparatively small perforation (4mm.) near top, on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut of two depths with sharp edged drills.

**Description:** irregular criss-cross design. Vertical lines irregularly criss-crossed by horizontal and diagonal lines covering whole field. Six-rayed star or "wheel" formed in center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium (or first half of 4th millennium), Halaf period (or later Ubaid period), North Iraq (or Syria-South Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to Halaf period pyramids. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 173 (similar linear base design, Yarimtepe II), 175 (Arpatchiya). Pyramids of similar shape also appear toward the end of the later Ubaid period mainly in Syria and Palestine. Cf. WFC No. 370. The "plane group p2mm" layout of the present seal's base design and the star motif embedded in it are common motifs found mainly in the Halaf and later Ubaid glyptic. For Halaf period examples cf. ibid.: Nos. 79 (impression, Arpatchiya), 125 (pendant, Yarimtepe), 133 (pendant, Arpatchiya), 137 (see above). For later Ubaid examples on hemispheroids and sub-hemispheroids from Susa A, cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 106, 109, 111 (almost pyramidal), 112. For close design (without the "wheel" design) on pyramid with similar base shape cf. WFC No. 39.



190

**Object:** dark-grey-black serpentine, 25x15x10mm. Rhomboid shaped sub-pyramidal-conoidal seal with very rounded, sloping back contours and sub-gable thinner sides profile; flat rhomboid base. Perforation (4mm.) on one sloping back end near top, on short axis. Perforation holes "acting" as animal or fish(?) eyes forming animal or fish(?) shaped back.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut and slightly deeper central divider cut with thin and very thin drills with pointed ends; perforation from both sides of back.

**Description:** back: few shallow linear strokes on one back side. Base: central line crossed by straight parallel lines and irregular diagonal lines within framed angle border on one pointed end.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, later Halaf period or early Ubaid period (probably the transitory period between the two periods), Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** closed bodied seals with rhomboid shaped bases do not occur in excavations before the early Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 214, 217, 218 (No. 214: gabled rhomboid pearl seal perforated on long axis, Tepe Gawra). However, rhomboid shaped seal-amulets appear already in the Halaf period. Cf. also the high pyramidal-conoidal seal with rounded back contours perforated near one end of back. Halaf period in ibid.: No. 173 (almost identical irregular linear design and same engraving style, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period). For close bodied seals with similar location of perforation cf. Vollenweider 1967: No. 3 (angle and line-filled cross design, Tepe Giyan, second half of 5th millennium); Von der

Osten 1957: No. 341. For an irregular base design of similar type cf. pyramidal seals WFC Nos. 8, 189. For later, more naturalistic fish amulets cf. WFC Nos. 450-1.



191

**Object:** black serpentine, 21x15x11mm. Irregular conoid with one sloping, elongated side; small, oval base. Perforated below apex to form thin loop-handle. Perforation (5x6mm.) incised on back, on short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear drill; fairly shallow drilled dot (1mm. deep); perforation hole seen from top and drilled from two sides with round drill; wider on the outside and narrowing in center of hole.

**Description:** star with central drilled dot (2mm.).

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period or early Ubaid period.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similarly shaped seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 173 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period); Buchanan 1981: No. 15 (early Ubaid period). For the design cf. WFC Nos. 133, 166, 215, and for close designs cf. WFC Nos. 269, 216.



192

**Object:** white-cream limestone with encrustation, 16x10x18mm. Tall conoid, elongated ovoid base. Very large elongated ovoid perforation (6x8mm.) below very thin top, on short axis, forming semi-loop-handle near narrow top.

**Technique:** two depths of linear cut: deep lengthwise central line with shallower grooves cut with thin drills with pointed edge.

**Description:** incomplete grid criss-cross design, with small drilled dots on one side.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** this seal's shape seems like a transitional form between the thick loop-handled seals of the Hassuna-Samarra period and the thin loop-handled conoids of the Halaf period. The two-depths linear cut is typical of Halaf period glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 51, 52 (Tel as-Sauwan, Hassuna-Samarra period), 198, 199 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For a similar large hole on conoid cf. WFC No. 193 below. For grid criss-cross design on base of conoids cf. WFC Nos. 27, 194.



193

**Object:** white limestone with many pores, 17x11x22mm. Irregular sub-conoid, wide high top on one side, narrowing on other back side to sub-loop handle, convex ovoid base. Large elongated ovoid perforation (5x7mm.) near top on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut and incisions with drills of two widths; rounded, wide cut perforation from two sides narrowing to smaller hole in center (cut and hole: one side: 11x13mm.; other side: 9x11mm.).

**Description:** back: many pores of various sizes "acting" as small drilled holes. Base: line-filled cross with one line in quadrants and two very small "drilled" dots near one edge.

**Date/origin:** first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period, North Iraq (or Syria - South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 27. However, seals with convex bases are unknown before the Halaf period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 207 (Tell Halaf). Most of the pores are naturally occurring. However, their distribution on the back and base of this piece and the few marks of drills, suggest that at least some pores were enlarged or were man made. For similar pores on a jasper pyramidal seal cf. WFC No. 377. For the motif on Halaf period seals cf. ibid.; Nos. 177 (Yarimtepe II), 198 (Arpatchiya) and on conoids cf. WFC No. 195.



194

**Object:** pink, cream, yellowish marble or limestone, 20x19x17.5mm. Tall conoid, round base. "Pear shaped" perforation (4x8mm.) below top.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear cut with thin and very thin drills.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period (or early Ubaid period), North Iraq, (or Syria -South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape not earlier than Halaf period. For comparatively small perforation near top on Halaf period pyramidal and conoidal seals Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 254, Tab. 3, Nos. 173, 174 (Yarimtepe II), 175 (Arpatchiya). For similar shaped conoids cf. WFC Nos. 168 (smaller), 195 below. For similar criss-cross designs on conoids or sub-conoids cf. WFC Nos. 150-1, 192.



195

**Object:** light and dark grey-green serpentine, 20x18x19.5mm. Tall conoid, irregular oval base. Ovoid perforation (5x5.5mm.) in center, on short axis. Broken and chipped on base.

**Technique:** two depths linear cut: deep and shallow, with fairly thick angular drill with pointed edge and thin drill.

**Description:** line-filled cross with few, uneven number of strokes in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, Halaf period (or early Ubaid period). North Iraq, (or Syria -South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 194 above, but rounder. For the design on a sub-conoid cf. WFC No. 203.



197

**Object:** orange, cream marble/limestone with patina, 18x17.5x22.5mm. Tall conoid with rounded, flattened top, round base. Very small perforation slightly above center. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size drill and large (3mm.) shallow (1mm.) gouged drilled dots (linked in one quadrant) with rounded drill.

**Description:** cross with large drilled hole in each quadrant.

**Date/origin:** middle 4th-first half of 3rd millennium, Uruk period (but could also date from the first half of 5th millennium, Halaf period), Syria, Anatolia (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC Nos. 195-6 above and 381. For shape cf. Von Wicked 1990: 254-255, Tab. 3. The base motif is current mainly in Syria and adjacent areas. It occurs in the Halaf period and reappears in the Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: No. 206 (round based handled seal, Ras-Shamra, Halaf period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 289:5 (baked clay "cylinder", Amuq H horizon, early Bronze age). The linked drilled dots suggest an Uruk rather than a Halaf date, but since the linkage occurs only in one quadrant it may indicate an early, experimental stage in this drilling technique. Style of drilled dots close to WFC No. 382. For similar design with larger number of drilled dots on a bell-shaped conoid cf. WFC No. 379.



196

**Object:** black serpentine with large green spots, 16x16x18mm. Conoid, slightly convex, round base. Perforation (3.5x4mm.) below top. Bought in North Syria.

**Technique:** beautifully polished. Fairly deep linear cut with rounded drill.

**Description:** central cross with superimposed square. Second cross ("Maltese" cross shaped) formed by lines off square.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th millennium (or 5th millennium), Gawra/early Uruk period (or Halaf/early Ubaid period), Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape dates the piece either to the Halaf/early Ubaid periods or to the Gawra/Uruk periods when the conoids are usually more truncated or pointed than the present piece. Conoids rarely occur in the later Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Tab. 3. The base design is a version of "point group 4mm" layout which was developed in the Halaf period. In that period this layout is found in many variations, but usually with more detailing, mainly on pendant seals. However, none are identical to the present design. For an identical design on an hemispheroid from Judeideh cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191:5 (Amuq F, Gawra/early Uruk period). For similar combinations of cross and square motifs on conoids and hemispheroids cf. WFC Nos. 78, 148-9, 301 and No. 195 above.



198

**Object:** red-brown limestone with shining white-cream patina, 14x13.5x26mm. Tall sub-conoid with continuous spiral groove on back from base to top, below perforation. Circular base. Broken on top in lower part of small perforation (2mm. wide).

**Technique:** back groove: cut with large rounded drill; base decoration: linear cut with thinner drill with pointed end.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium (or second half of 4th millennium), early Ubaid period (or Gawra/early Uruk

period), North Iraq, Syria (or North-East Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the very small perforation is most typical of Halaf period and early Ubaid period glyptic. In shape, size and back design the nearest excavated example is an early Ubaid period seal found at Ras al-'Amya. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 228. However, cf. also the similarly shaped seals or pendants with continuous spiral back in Goff 1963: No. 55a (Tepe Gawra, Gawra period); Schmidt 1937: No. H1681 (bone, plain round base, Hissar II). In forming the shape of this seal and in cutting a three-dimensional spiral grooved back the manufacturers of this tall conoid probably tried to imitate the shape of a shell such as *Corithium erythraeum*, *Fusiform* gastropods or *Trochiform* gastropods.



199

**Object:** black serpentine, 22.5x22.5x19mm. Irregular sub-conoid. Wide conoidal back with continuous spiral groove and narrower plain conoidal (or loop-handle) top, round base. Large perforation (7mm. wide). Half of top and sides of perforation broken, broken base.

**Technique:** deep linear, curved and rounded cut with thin and globular drills, negative(?) cut; perforation from two ends with two thin rings in center of perforation.

**Description:** seven-rayed star-rosette within circular border. Each ray terminating in drilled dot, with central drilled dot. "Wheel-design".

**Date/origin:** uncertain date: (5th millennium) or second half of 4th millennium, (Halaf or early Ubaid periods) or Gawra/early Uruk period (or 9th-7th century B.C., Iron Age), North Iraq, Syria or South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape is a variation on the Halaf period conoid with small-loop top. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 197 (Gird Banahik). For conoid with continuous spiral cf. WFC No. 198 above. The use of drilled dots occurs both in the Halaf and early Ubaid periods and in the Uruk period. The "star" or "wheel" designs of the Halaf period are symmetrical with an even number of "rays" or "spokes". Cf. ibid.: Nos. 57, 66 (impressions, Arpatchiya). Rotating stars or "wheels" with an uneven number of "rays" or "spokes" as on the present piece are found on stamp seals' impressions in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 258 (round impression, fifteen spokes, Tepe Gawra, level XII), 416 (eleven rays or petals with central drilled dot, Arpatchiya). For similar base design on large handled clay seal cf. WFC No. 464. The motif is not found on any excavated stamp seal from the later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or from the Early Dynastic period. Similar patterns occur on stratified Piedmont cylinder seals and impressions originating mainly from the Diyala region "which can be dated to the very

beginning of the 3rd millennium B.C. (ED A). Patterns are often based on the rosette which can be enclosed in a circle or surrounded by a hatched, circular band." (Collon 1993: 23, Nos. 34-8, Jamdet Nasr, Iraq). Cf. especially ibid.: No. 38 (three identical impressions with impressions from other seals). If indeed Collon's ibid.: No. 38 is an impression from a cylinder seal and not from a stamp seal, then we have here an example of an identical motif used both on a stamp seal (the present piece) and on a cylinder seal. The Early Dynastic cylinder seal workshops probably adapted geometric motifs into their repertoire, including the rosette motif, from the earlier (Gawra/early Uruk period) repertoire of stamp seals and in the process adjusted the centralized design characteristic of stamp seals to the new band layout of cylinder seals. A similar rosette design but cut in a different engraving style decorates the flat top of an Iron Age, 9th-7th century B.C. Syro-Palestine three-lobed stud bought in Beirut. Cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1988: No. 230. For grooved back on low stud of similar shape from the same late period cf. ibid.: No. 234.

## 6. Small pearl seals, small hemispheroids, sub-hemispheroids, ovoids, related shapes, larger pearl seals and a reel-shaped seal



200

**Object:** cream, light grey, light brown marble with patina, 15x15x9mm. High hemispheroid, round base, grooved above base. Perforated (4mm.) above groove.

**Technique:** deep, even, linear drilled work; deeper drilled dot with round drill.

**Description:** radiating design. Five radiating lines with central drilled dot and irregular diagonal criss-cross design in fields.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, late Halaf or early Ubaid (Ubaid 3), North-West Syria-South-East Anatolia, North Iraq (or East Iran?)

**Discussion/comparanda:** uncommon shape in Halaf glyptic. The appearance of small hemispheroids in the Halaf period is not accepted by all scholars. In view of the large variety of mainly small size shapes present in Halaf glyptic and in view of the innovative character of that glyptic culture we tend to adopt the notion that sees in the Halaf period the period that "gave birth" to the small size hemispheroids. We believe that the small size hemispheroid was first produced in Halaf glyptic sporadically but that it became one of the leading glyptic shapes only by the later Ubaid period. Von Wicked is one of the leading scholars holding the view that small hemispheroids do not appear before the early Ubaid

period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 113 ff., 258, note 12, Tab. 3. However, cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 296 (small, low hemispheroid, Tell Halaf, Halaf period). Thus, since base design of the present specimen is a popular Halaf design occurring on seal-pendants of various shapes and on low handled, thin, round and square base seals the dating of this hemispheroid to the Halaf period should not be excluded. Cf. WFC Nos. 127, 141, 165 (with lists). In the early Ubaid period, Halaf designs are continued to be used, however, with a tendency toward a more rotating-radiating layout. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 262, Nos. 210, 212 (Tepe Gawra). The present design can be seen also as a variation on the "symmetrical point group 3m" design common in early Ubaid. Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: 53, No. 185, third on 3rd row (similar design without central drilled dot, hemispheroid). For hemispheroids with grooves above base with different base designs cf. Vollenweider 1983: No. 3 (second half of 4th millennium); WFC Nos. 302, 307.



201

**Object:** black serpentine, 11x6.5x4.5mm. Small, low elongated sub-pearl seal, long oval base. Small perforation (2mm.) on short axis. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** shallow, thin incisions.

**Description:** cross within rhomboid with tiny strokes outside rhomboid.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Chalcolithic, late Halaf or early Ubaid periods, North-West Syria -South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size similar to WFC No. 202 below, but perforated on short axis and therefore not a real "pearl-shaped" seal. The closest designs occur on Halaf and early Ubaid pendants and small handled seals. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 223 (Tepe Gawra, Ubaid period), 227, 230 (Arpachiya, Halaf period); Von Wickede 1990: No. 226 (Mersin, early Ubaid period); WFC No. 68.



202

**Object:** black serpentine, 9x8.5x5mm. Small pearl seal with round wide section profile and flattened top; round base truncated on one side. Perforated (3mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** shallow, thin incisions.

**Description:** irregular linear design. Diagonal crossing lines and many radiating, crossing lines and strokes.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid

(Ubaid 3) period, North-West Syria -South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** pearl shaped seals were developed in Ubaid 3 glyptic and are the most common shape in this era. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 143ff., 258, Abb. 5, Tab. 3. The small size of this seal show it to be an early example of this development. The base design is a continuation of Halaf period designs, a common feature of early Ubaid glyptic. For similar linear designs cf. ibid - No. 226 (seal-amulet-pendant, Tepe Gawra, level XIX, early Ubaid period) and WFC Nos. 64, 142-3, 165 (with lists).



203

**Object:** shining black serpentine with brown patina, 11x10x5mm. Low, small pearl, carinated on one side, with almost gable perforation side profile, round base. Perforation (3x4mm.) with very small hole (1mm.), on long axis.

**Technique:** thin, delicate linear work with sharp, pointed edged drill.

**Description:** cross with one line to center.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size close to WFC No. 202 above and to Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 379: 2 (Amuq F or earlier, Dhahab); Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. For design cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 51 (flat top small hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period). Common design on small "button seals" with convex base from Susa, cf. Amiet 1972: No. 82-3 (Susa A).



204

**Object:** black-red serpentine, 10x9x5mm. Low, small, carinated hemispheroid, truncated on sides of perforation, irregular round base. Comparatively large perforation (4x3mm.).

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with rounded drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** cross filled with two radiating strokes from edge in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-middle of 4th millennium, Ubaid period or early Uruk/Gawra period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. Von Wickede

1990: Tab. 3. For similar seal with same base design cf. WFC No. 202. Although the design occurs already in the 5th millennium it is one of the most common designs throughout the 4th millennium. For the motifs on small seals cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 101:3 (small handled seal, same design, probably Amuq F), 191:5 (shape, similar design in square frame, Amuq F), 379:2 (shape and more careless design, Dhahab, Amuq E or F), 9, 10 (design); Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 82 (design, small square tabloid, Tell Gawra, level XI-A, later Ubaid-Gawra /early Uruk periods), 152 (shape, size and design, Tepe Gawra, level X-A, later Ubaid-Gawra/early Uruk periods), 173 (shape and design, Tepe Gawra, level IX, later Gawra/Uruk periods); Amiet 1972: No. 78 (shape, size and design, Susa A).



205

**Object:** black-green serpentine, 8x8x5mm. Low, small hemispheroid, slightly carinated, truncated on sides of perforation, irregular circular base, truncated on sides below perforation. Small perforation (1.5x2.5mm).

**Technique:** shallow linear drill work with very thin edged drill; polished encircled perforation hole (circle and hole: 3x4.5mm).

**Description:** cross with uneven number of radiating strokes from edge in three quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-middle of 4th millennium, Ubaid period or early Uruk/Gawra period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC No. 204 above.



206

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 11.5x10.5x4.5mm. Low, flattened hemispheroid, round base notched on one side. Perforated (3.5mm. wide). Broken above perforation, showing the whole perforation canal.

**Technique:** fairly deep, delicate, even drill work with round drill with very thin edge; perforation with round drill, drilled from both ends to center in straight line.

**Description:** line-filled cross with four radiating lines from edge to center in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably end of early Ubaid period or later Ubaid), Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 205 above

but with flatter top and slightly larger. Small hemispheroids of this shape occur in early Ubaid glyptic. Cf. WFC No. 200. Their appearance in the Halaf culture is disputed. Undoubtedly these low, small, flat top hemispheroids are most common in later Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 119-121, Abb. 31, Tab. 3. The present rotating symmetrical design of "point group 4" type is favorable throughout the later Ubaid period and is in continued use until the late Uruk period. However, the design is found in a very similar engraving style decorating the round base of a conoidal-pyramidal seal from Tepe Gawra, level XVI, that is already in the ending early Ubaid period. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 8. For identical shape and size cf. Ibid.: fig. 51 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period). For identical base design on a larger hemispheroid from Susa A. cf. Amiet 1972: No. 78. Cf also WFC No. 129.



207

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 14x12x8mm. Low, curved and slightly truncated back; round base, truncated on one side. Secondary perforation (2mm.) from center of original perforation through base. Original perforation (3.5mm. wide) not reaching sides of back. Small perforated (1mm.) discoid bead as handle placed in center of original perforation and attached with modern glue.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill work.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with small angles filled with stroke in quadrants and central drilled perforation.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-early 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid), Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the original perforation location on back and its form indicate that this seal was originally designed as a small, low handled seal, similar to WFC No. 147. Ancient secondary perforation was bored during manufacture since base hole is integral to base design. The discoid handle glued in modern times looks like a small bead. It may, in itself, however, be ancient, since beads of this shape and size (or slightly larger) are found throughout the prehistoric era in many sites, in the same contexts as seals and frequently near seals. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 67.2, 3 (Amuq B), 252.4, 6, 7 (Amuq G), 296.2, 7 (Amuq H). Small handled seals of this type are most common in the Halaf period but are continued to be used also in the early North Ubaid glyptic. The closest handle shapes to that of the present "bead" handle are found on Halaf period round based seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 90, 92 (Arpatchiya) and the very similar handle of WFC No. 125. Base design is unknown in excavated Halaf glyptic. It becomes popular in the later Ubaid period, but may originate already in the early Ubaid period. In the later periods it is a very common motif especially on hemispheroids, but is represented also on gables and other shapes, usually without the central drilled

dot. Cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 253 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid 4), 272 (small round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII(?)), 524 (Susa, late Chalcolithic period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 121 (Uruk period). For same base design with drilled hole through base cf. WFC No. 161; Amiet 1972: No. 34 (large baked clay "button" seal, oval base, Susa A). Cf. also Schmidt 1937: H3364 (same design, square base, tall ridge-stem handle, Hissar IC).



208

**Object:** opaque red serpentine, 13.5x8x6mm. Low, elongated almost conoidal-pyramidal back with one wide concave perforation side forming low sub-loop-handle, rounded top triangular narrow side profile; ovoid base with rounded corners, one long side - straight, the other with large rounded notch (almost "kidney"-shaped base). Elongated perforation on one side (4x5mm.) ending on other side as round perforation (2.5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear work with thin edged drill; large perforation drilled from one side.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with one angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-early 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid), Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Mesopotamia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the small size and transitional shape of this seal probably indicate a date in the Ubaid period. Design basically the same as WFC No. 207 above but adjusted to the elongated base. For the resemblance between the present seal's base shape and the popular kidney-shaped seals from Tell Brak of late Uruk times, cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. XVII, Nos. 9-25 (especially No. 11, all with animal base designs). A geometric - criss-cross design occurs on a ridge-handle seal with an identical "kidney"-shaped contour base from Mallowan's Khabur expedition. Cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 135 (perhaps from Brak). It, and the present piece are probably examples of early prototypes from which the later kidney-shaped Tell Brak seals developed. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 259.



209

**Object:** opaque red serpentine, 9x7x5mm. Small, low sub-lentoid with almost triangular side profile; sub-rectangular, slightly convex base with rounded corners and notch on one long side. Comparatively large, elongated perforation (3x4mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear drill work; drilled base linear-dot (0.5x2mm.) resulting from perforation reaching base.

**Description:** central line on short axis with short strokes off it and "drilled" linear-dot.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-early 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid), Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape similar to WFC No. 208 above. Similar designs with central divider resembling a "leaf" occur throughout the Ubaid (mainly in later Ubaid) periods, Gawra and Uruk periods. For the design on small hemispheroids and related shapes cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 41 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period), 80 (Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Gawra period). Cf. also the design on a larger ovoid impression in Von Wickede 1990: No. 237 (Tepe Gawra, level XIII, end of Ubaid 3-beginning of Ubaid 4).



210

**Object:** cream-yellowish, grey-green, dark brown serpentine, 11x11x6mm. Small, low, flat top sub-hemispheroid, with one perforation side cut into top in sub-gabled form; sub-circular base with one straight side and notch on opposite side below perforation (almost kidney-shaped base). Comparatively large, elongated perforation (3x5mm.) on short side.

**Technique:** very faint cut with thin drill; perforation began as diagonal tunnel pierced on back above base on one side and reaching base on other side.

**Description:** central line with few diagonal strokes off it, and two small drilled dots.

**Description:** second half of 5th-early 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid), Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 209 above. For combined drilled dot design with symmetrical central divider cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 215 (pendant, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period).



211

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 12x10.5x6.5mm. Low, flattened top ovoid with inward cut wide back sides; slightly convex, sub-ovoid base with straight elongated sides. "Pear-shaped" perforation (3x5.5mm.) in center on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep, even, linear drill work with pointed drill; drilled dot with round drill with pointed end; perforation holes with rounded end drill and pointed end drill; one perforation side cut and polished around hole.

**Description:** radiating strokes of various lengths with one diagonal stroke almost crossing whole field and large drilled hole off center.

**Date/origin:** later 5th-early 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid period), North Iraq, North-West Iran (Tepe Giyan horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size very close to WFC Nos. 210, 212. Design close to WFC Nos. 54, 300 (with cross in center), 218-9 (without drilled dot) adjusted to base shape. For similar, less regular design on a thick lentoid with slightly convex base cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 22 (said to be from Tepe Giyan).



212

**Object:** shining black-green serpentine, 14x13x7mm. Flat top hemispheroid cut on sides of perforation, sub-circular base cut on sides. Perforated (3mm.).

**Technique:** deep drill work; rounded and polished around both perforation holes (cut and hole: 14x6mm.).

**Description:** grid criss-cross design with few diagonal lines, close to cross within three sided square frame with additional diagonal crossing lines.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid period, North Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape indicates an Ubaid 3 date at the earliest. Design is a wide spaced version of the typical Halaf period "plane group p6mm" design which was continue to be applied in the early Ubaid period. For similar linear designs on small seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 30.7 (Sakcagozu, Neolithic glyptic, Amuq B horizon?), No. 70 (impression, Arpatchiya, Halaf period). For similar designs on larger hemispheroids from Susa A, cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 110, 114-5, 117, 123. Cf. also similar designs on WFC Nos. 233, 303.



213

**Object:** black serpentine, 16x10.5x5mm. Low, elongated, flattened ovoid, ovoid base. Elongated perforation, sub "pear-shaped" on one side (2x4mm.), on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut of uneven width with very thin and slightly thicker drills with pointed ends.

**Description:** two sets of three and two angles one within the other, back to back.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-early 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid or beginning of later Ubaid period), North Syria, South-East Anatolia, Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** unusual (transitional?) shape close to "pearl" shaped seals but with piercing on short axis. Symmetrical mirror design without central divider close to "strip group pma2" layout found in Ubaid 3 and 4 glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 262, Abb. 8, Nos. 225 (Eridu, Ubaid 3), 497 (Tello, later Ubaid period), Abb. 39.16, 17 (Hakalan and Dum Gar Parcina). For more rigid symmetrical zigzag designs with or without central divider cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 27 (discoid, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, end of early Ubaid or early later Ubaid period); Buchanan 1981: Nos. 15 (boss on high sloping oval base, Halaf period?), 16 (rounded oblong pyramid, Halaf period?) and on larger hemispheroids cf. WFC No. 236 (flattened hemispheroid); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 200.1. For similar design on a conical seal grooved in center of back from Susa B cf. Amiet 1972: No. 259.



214

**Object:** opaque cream-white flint, 11x10x6mm. Lentoid pearl, oval faces with truncated sides and rhomboid perforation sides profile with rounded corners. Small perforation (1.5x2mm.) in center on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill work.

**Description:** back: rectangular grid criss-cross design. Base: two central lines with four horizontal lines off their sides (two lower lines crossing central dividers).

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid or beginning of later Ubaid period), North Syria, South-East Anatolia, Iraq, North or South-West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** small lentoid seals begin to appear in the later Halaf period and are common to early Ubaid (Ubaid 3) glyptic. The present lentoid is closest to the early Ubaid lentoids. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: 12, 69, note 1; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: 26; Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3, No. 219 (Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). The design appears already on larger seals from the Ceramic Neolithic era as well as in later glyptic. For a similar design on an irregular handled seal cf. ibid.: Abb. 32.7 (Tepe Gawra, level XVI-XV, early Ubaid period). For identical or very similar designs on a grooved disc and a lenticular seal from Hissar I and Susa A cf. Schmidt 1937: No. H3435 (Hissar I); Amiet 1972: Nos. 100 (Susa A). For same design on ridge handled seals from Hissar I and II cf. Schmidt 1973: Nos. H4649 (square base, Hissar I), H3754 (rectangular

base, Hissar I). H3005 (square base, Hissar IIA). The present back design is also close to that of a small hemispheroid from Tell Brak, cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 144.



215

**Object:** red-brown, pink, cream, grey marble, 13x14x6mm. Small, low gabled hemispheroid, flat, round base, truncated on sides below perforation. Comparatively large perforation (4mm.).

**Technique:** even, regular linear drill work; shallow drilled dot.

**Description:** star (or wheel) with central drilled dot.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size developed in early Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 258, Tab. 3. Design is a continuation of a Halaf period motif into early Ubaid glyptic (cf. WFC Nos. 138, 140) without the secondary filling, that is like WFC No. 191, but with all "rays" at same length. This layout is a pure geometric representation of "symmetrical point group 4mm" design.



216

**Object:** white marble, 15x15x6mm. Low lentoid, rounded base, bi-faced gable side profile, circular base. Perforated (3mm.).

**Technique:** two depths of linear drill cut; drilled hole with round edged drill.

**Description:** radiating design. Double cross (star) with central drilled hole. Triangular fields filled with chevrons, radiating small lines, or drilled dots.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-earlier 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably Ubaid 3), North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia or North-West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** no identical example has been found. For similar shape cf. WFC No. 214 and Von Wicked 1990: Tab. 3. For later Ubaid seals of close shape cf. ibid.: Nos. 519 (Tepe Gawra), 516 (Tepe Gawra). Double cross (star) as the only base decoration occurs already in the Halaf period. Cf. ibid.: No. 66 (impressions, Arpatchiya);

Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 307 (small loop-handled seal, Chagar Bazar). During the Ubaid period radiating symmetrical designs become more and more frequent. However, examples of "point group n" design, which is seen on the present seal, appear only rarely and without additional motifs in the triangular fields. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Abb. 39.8. Cf. also the less rigid rotating design with central drilled dot in ibid.: Abb. 32.11 (Tepe Gawra, level XVI, end of early Ubaid period). For similar designs see ibid.: 258 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid 4); Buchanan 1981: No. 26 (disc, six-part cross, dot filled, said to be from Tepe Giyan); Schmidt 1973: No. H4508 (without motifs in triangular fields, ridge handle, Hissar IC); WFC Nos. 191, 215 (without motifs in triangular fields). Geometric designs with drilled depressions occur already in the Halaf period and are common on Susa A button seals. The shape of the present seal indicates a Northern origin and probably an earlier date than Susa A.



217

**Object:** grey, cream limestone, 18.5x18.5x7mm. Low lentoid, rounded base, bi-faced gable side profile; slightly convex, round base. Comparatively large, elongated perforation (4x5mm.). Broken on back above one perforation side.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill work; perforation with round edged rotating drill, probably of metal.

**Description:** line-filled cross with radiating strokes in two directions, almost chevrons.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (or early Uruk period), North Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape same as WFC No. 216 above but with less pronounced gable base profile. The present geometric "rotating symmetrical point group 2" layout is typical of Ubaid 4 glyptic, and is in continued use until the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 261, Abb. 7, Tab. 4. For the design cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 44 (perforated, semi-discoid, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid 4 period). For similar design on larger carinated hemispheroids and ridge handled seals from Susa cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 79, 87 (Susa A); Von Wicked 1990: No. 522 (later Chalcolithic). Cf. also WFC Nos. 175, 219.



218

**Object:** dark brown limestone, 19x18.5x9mm. Gabled hemispheroid (close to gable pearl) with curved top above high base; semi-circular, slightly convex base. Comparatively large perforation (5x4.5mm.) slightly off center on longer axis.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear drill work from edges to center.

**Description:** radiating stroke design, empty center.

**Date/origin:** later 5th-early 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid), West Iran, (or North Iraq, North Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape appears in later Ubaid 3 period and common in Ubaid 4 period. Cf. WFC No. 217 above (thinner back); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 47 (bought Cilicia). Radiating designs with edge strokes, usually with central motif (drilled dots, central drilled dot, cross etc..) occur already in Halaf glyptic but are most common in the Ubaid eras. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 32.1, 2, 11, (Tepe Gawra, levels XVI-XV), Nos. 207, 204 (Ras Shamra, Halaf period), 229 (small "button" seal with convex base, same base design, Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period), 525 ("button" seal with convex base, same base design, Susa A); Amiet 1972: No. 13 (same base design, Susa A); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 31 (Tepe Gawra, level XIII-Well).



219

**Object:** brown, light brown semi-translucent calcite with black from fire(?), 17x18x9mm. Low sub-gable hemispheroid (close to gable pearl), sub-circular base truncated on one side below perforation with wide angular notch below other perforation. Perforation (5mm.) reaching base, on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear drill work from edges to center; central cross with thin drill.

**Description:** radiating diagonal stroke lines with faint cross in center.

**Date/origin:** later 5th-first half of 4th millennium (or later), Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid period or Gawra - Uruk periods), Iraq, Syria or South-East Anatolia, Luristan or South Iran (Susa A horizon).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type almost identical to WFC No. 218 above, but a more regular hemispheroid. For shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3; Keel-Leu 1991: Nos. 6, 10 (Susa A/B, Luristan). One of the most popular base designs throughout the Ubaid eras and regions, continued uninterrupted but less frequently, to early Bronze period. For identical design cf. WFC No. 217. For identical or very similar designs on hemispheroids cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 46, 49 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, later Northern Ubaid contemporary with early Uruk in Southern Iran), 152

(small hemispheroid, more regular design, Tepe Gawra, level X-A, Uruk period), 173 (Tepe Gawra, level IX, Uruk period). For the design on impressions and seals of various shapes cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 343 (impression, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period), 506 ("button seal with convex base, Tello, later Ubaid period), 513 (diskoid, Tepe Gawra, later Ubaid period), Abb. 22.3 (burned clay "semi-button" seal, Kocumbeli, 3rd-2nd millennium); Amiet 1972: Nos. 13-4, 29 (handled seals, Susa A), 79, 86, 95, 101 (hemispheroids, Susa A, No. 101 from Tepe Djaffarabad near Susa); Buchanan 1981: No. 33.



220

**Object:** mottled black-dark brown serpentine, 15.5x12.5x7mm. Flattened sub-hemispheroid back with slightly inward angled perforation sides; ovoid base with two truncated sides. Perforated (4mm.) in center, on short axis. Secondary (?) oval shaped hole (2x4mm.) from base to perforation.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear drill cut.

**Description:** angle-filled cross (irregular) with central drilled dot off center and one or two strokes within one angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-early 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid or beginning of later Ubaid period), North Syria, South-East Anatolia, Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 213 but higher. For design cf. WFC No. 207.



221

**Object:** white marble, 18x14x6mm. Gable top with rounded corners; oval base with wide angle notches below perforation holes on wider sides - "violin shaped" base. Large perforation (5mm.) reaching base, on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep and shallow, thin linear cut with sharp edge, pointed drill.

**Description:** irregular diagonal criss-cross design with few lines widely spaced and few, very small drilled dots.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th to middle of 4th millennium, late Chalcolithic, Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk periods, North Iraq (or Syria, South-East Anatolia or West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** base shape close to WFC

No. 224. This piece shows the close connections between lentoids, round based gables and later gable seals. For similar shapes in Ubaid seals and the said connections cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: 54, No. 178, first on 4th row (gable with same base, animal design); Keel-Leu 1991: No. 29 (similar back shape, rectangular base with round corners, animal design). The design (plane group c2mm) rarely occurs after the early Ubaid period, and then in a more condensed form than on the present piece. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 4, No. 484 (impression, ovoid with pointed edge base, Uruk).



222

**Object:** black-dark brown serpentine, 17x14x4.5mm. Low lentoid, very low gable side profile; very slightly convex, sub-ovoid base ("violin" shaped) with wide "V" shaped notches below perforation holes. Perforated (3x3.5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear drill work.

**Description:** irregular radiating linear design. Few lines and strokes from edge, irregularly pointing to center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to undecorated beads from Kurdu, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 166: 12, 13 (Amuq E). For similar shape (with flat base and very small base notches) cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 39 (similarly faint, but more regular design, Tepe Gawra, level XII, later Ubaid period). For base shape and close design cf. Amiet 1972: No. 89 (larger hemispheroid, Susa A); Buchanan 1981: No. 21 (said to be from Tepe Giyan). Design close to WFC No. 211 and to more regular impression designs from Degirmentepe, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 328, 329 (later Ubaid period). For base shape cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 198; WFC No. 221 above.



223

**Object:** black-dark grey serpentine, 15x14x6mm. Low, flattened hemispheroid (close to bi-faced gable), with rounded top semi-gable side profile; sub-round, "violin"-shaped base with small notches. Perforation (3.5x4mm.) reaching base, on short axis. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** deep linear drill work filled with soil.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with triangle or line within angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** first half to middle of 4th millennium, late Chalcolithic, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk periods, North Iraq (or Syria, South-East Anatolia or West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the design occurs throughout the later Chalcolithic era but also in the early Bronze era. For an identical small low hemispheroid with the same design cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 120 (Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Uruk period = Von Wickede 1990: No. 532, Tepe Gawra, level XI/XI-A, end of later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk periods, late Chalcolithic glyptic). For the design on an impression cf. ibid.: fig. 121 (level XI-A, Uruk period = Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 34.7, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X-A?, end of later Ubaid or early Gawra/early Uruk periods, late Chalcolithic glyptic). For the motif in early Ubaid glyptic cf. WFC Nos. 181, 220 (with drilled dot). Cf. also WFC No. 292 (much larger hemispheroid). For similar shape and base shape cf. WFC No. 222, Type close to WFC No. 286.



224

**Object:** black-dark grey serpentine, 19x21x4mm. Very low, flattened sub-hemispheroid (almost disc), ovoid base with angle notches below perforation holes ("violin shape"). Perforation (3.5x4mm.) on short axis. Bought from the Marcopoli Collection, Christie's 1993: Group 315.

**Technique:** linear and slightly curved lines cut fairly deep with fairly wide, sharp edged drill; comparatively large perforation reaching base and cutting into back.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with stroke or chevron in one chevron in quadrant.

**Date/origin:** first half to middle of 4th millennium, late Chalcolithic, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk periods, North Iraq (or Syria, South-East Anatolia or West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 222, base design close to WFC No. 223 above, but less symmetrical and with a rotating tendency.



225

**Object:** greenish-grey serpentine with encrustation,

14.5x14x4mm. Low gable pearl with one side of back slightly higher and rounder than the other, narrow lentoid perforation side profile on one narrow side and flat on other narrow side; rectangular base with straight and rounded corners. Small perforation (2mm.) near base and back, on long axis, incised on back and base (on back: 2mm.; on base: 4mm.) or broken during manufacture (or from wear).

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size drill.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design with lines unevenly spaced.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (or end of early Ubaid period), North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** transitional shape between squarish lentoid pearl seal with gable profile and later gables with short axis perforation. Shape typical to Ubaid 4. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258-9, Tab. 3, Nos. 492 (Tulul at-Talatat), 494 (Tulul at-Talatat), 500 (Tepe Gawra, level, level XIII). The "plane group p2mm" design of this seal is typical of Northern glyptic from the earliest periods to the later Ubaid period. The drilling (or break?) on base below perforation probably occurred during production, resulting from the thin profile of the seal, since the base decoration takes it into consideration.



Wide back side



Narrow back side



Base

## 226

**Object:** black-dark grey serpentine, 18x12x12.5mm. Straight-angle pearl with high, slightly curved sub-gable back and sub-conoid perforation side profile, rectangular base with angular corners. Comparatively small perforation (3mm.) in center, on long axis.

**Technique:** perfect encircled drilled dots with fine, rounded drills and shallow linear cut with fairly thin drill.

**Description:** back: two encircled drilled dots side by side on each wide side of back (dot: 3mm. and 1mm. deep; encircling: 5mm.). Base: diagonal criss-cross design widely spaced, slightly irregular.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 5th millennium, end of Halaf period or probably early Ubaid period, North Iraq, North Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape is a variation on the early Ubaid period straight-angle pearl seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258. The encircled drill dots on back with their perfectly symmetrical position, decorative pattern and shallow cut have no parallel on backs of excavated pearl seals. The encircled drilled dots are too shallow for inlay. Their character differs from that of the holes drilled on backs of later Chalcolithic and early Bronze Age seals (mainly hemispheroids) which were presumably meant for inlay. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 42.1, 2 (Tepe Gawra, levels XI A-

XI/X), No. 606 (Tell Brak, later Uruk period); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 25, 26 and WFC No. 282. The latter holes may have developed from such decorative encircled dots as those on the present pearl. The encircled drilled depressions on the back of the present pearl are of the type current in Halaf period and early Ubaid period glyptic. Cf. WFC No. 228. Encircled drilled dots of similar type occasionally reappear as base decoration during the end of the Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: No. 43. 4 (gable seal, Byblos). The diagonal criss-cross "plane group 2mm" base design of this piece is in glyptic use during prehistoric periods. For Halaf period examples cf. ibid.: Nos. 67 (square impression, Arpatchiya), 127, 130 (Tepe Gawra, pendants), 182 (rectangular base, low handled seal, Ras Shamra).



## 227

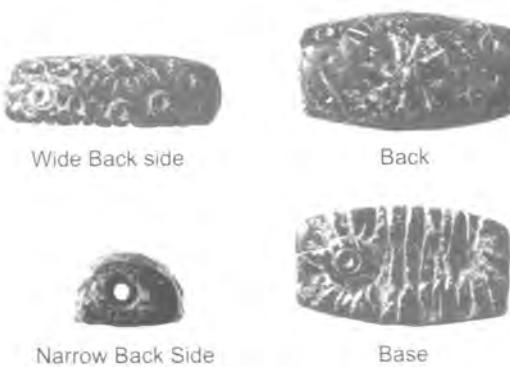
**Object:** dark blue serpentine, 22x10x15.5mm. Half-circle sub-pendant-seal with wide loop-handle in center of half-circle back. Back with wide top, cut sloping short sides and rounded wide sides narrowing toward rounded, elongated ovoid "base". Pear-shaped handle perforation (4x5mm.) drilled on back, on long axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with fine, thin drill and encircled drilled dot with rounded edged drill; perforation hole from both sides narrowing in center of tunnel; cut and polished around upper part of perforation hole (cut and hole: 8x6mm.).

**Description:** handle: grid criss-cross on rounded top. Back and base: continuous groove below handle. Two drilled dots (1mm., 0.5mm deep) encircled by two concentric circles (5mm.) in center of wide back sides and framed by two sets of parallel lines running continuously from one wide back side through base to other wide back side.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium (or early 4th millennium), Halaf period (or early Ubaid period). North Iraq (or North Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** rare shape. The largest variety of seal-pendants with loop-handles and close back shapes occurs in the Halaf period. Some of the shapes continue into the early Ubaid period. For examples presenting some affinities with the present piece cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 149, 161, 172 (Arpatchiya). The back depressions are too shallow for inlay. For Halaf period pendants decorated with encircled drilled dots cf. ibid.: Nos. 103 (Arpatchiya), 119, 128, 129 (No. 129 with identical drilled dots encircled by two circles, Tepe Gawra). For pearl seals decorated on back with encircled drilled dots cf. WFC Nos. 226, 228. For seals with concentric circles as their only base motif cf. ibid.: No. 214 (rhomboid gable pearl, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period) and WFC No. 311 (hemispheroid).



## 228

**Object:** dark green serpentine, 28x16.5x9mm. Pearl with flattened half-barrel back, hemispheroid perforation side profile; sub-oval base with straight angle corners truncated on perforation sides. Pear shaped perforation hole on one side (3x4mm) and round perforation hole on other side (4mm.). Perforation on long axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size and fine, thin drills with pointed edges; broad cut with blunt drill; encircled drilled dots (on back: 1mm., 1mm. deep; encircling: 3.5mm.; on base: 2mm., 1.5mm deep; encircling: 4mm.) with fine drill and round end drill.

**Description:** back: eight-rayed star-rosette-“wheel” design within radiating stroke oval within oval border of fifteen encircled drilled holes. Base: zoomorphic design (bird? shrimp?). Body and tail(?) of creature formed by broad central “line” narrowing and curving toward one end with small diagonal strokes on its edges. Encircled drilled dot (eye) within large shallow circle with small radiating strokes (head, feathered[?] or scaled[?] with beak?) at end of “body”. The whole field covered with thin, sharp, straight and diagonal lines, some crossing creature’s body.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 5th millennium, end of Halaf period or probably early Ubaid period, Iraq, South-East Anatolia, (or East Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to straight angle pearls which appear in the early Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, No. 225 [Eridu]. (For close shapes cf. also below). The custom to depict a design in two depth cuts is typical of Halaf period glyptic and is occasionally found also in the early Ubaid period. The depiction of a broad cut zoomorphic motif together with a linear-geometric motif is also a common Halaf trait. However, in the Halaf period the linear geometric motifs are usually rendered in a more regular and complicated design than on the present pearl’s base. Cf. ibid.: No. 141 (triangular pendant, same linear design as on base of present seal, Cavi Tarlaši, Halaf period); WFC Nos. 98-9. The overall back design has no known parallel. However, its various elements and motifs are well known. The border with a recurring motif is found on the pearl seal from Eridu (cf. above). The central motif (star-rosette or wheel design) is well attested on seals of various shapes from Syria, North Iraq and Iran dating from the Halaf and Ubaid periods. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 57, 64, 66 (Arpachiyah, Halaf period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: Figs. 31 (Tepe Gawra, level XIII-Well, Ubaid II); ibid., 57 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period), 257 (Tell Arpachiyah, Ubaid

period), 307 (Chagar Bazar, Halaf period). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 29 (later 6th-5th millennium), 140 (Tell Brak, 4th millennium), Von der Osten 1957: figs. 6, 25 (Hissar, No. H1785), 26 (Tell Chagar Bazar). The encircled drilled dots of the type decorating the back and base of the present pearl occur in Halaf and early Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 103 (Arpachiyah), 119, 128, 129 (Tepe Gawra), 207 (Tell Halaf), 214 (Tepe Gawra). (Cf. also below).

Shape is similar also to the hemispheroid pearls with rhomboid or oval bases from the later Uruk period which are common especially in Susiana. However, most of the decorative elements of the present pearl are not typical of the later Uruk period. Although the motifs decorating these later pearls are occasionally cut in a wide gouging engraving style similar to that of the zoomorphic animal on the base of the present pearl, the sharp parallel lines or encircled drilled dots do not occur in this period. Cf. Delaporte 1920: No. A.4a (shape, from Persia); Amiet 1972: Nos. 280-6, 288 (shape and style, Proto-Urbanic, Susa C); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 246.3.

For encircled drilled dots on other seals cf. Von der Osten 1957: fig. 6.36 (Hissar, No. H3829); Buchanan 1981: No. 43 (date uncertain, Ubaid or later); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 210.1, 3 (probably from Iran, 4th millennium). Encircled drilled dots become a common decorating motif during the late Uruk/“Jamdet Nasr” period on cylinder seals (cf. Braidwood /Braidwood 1960: figs. 254:2 (three rows of encircled drilled dots), 3 (lozenge with encircled drilled dot, Amuq G); on animal amulet-seals (cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 275.1, late Uruk/“Jamdet Nasr” period), as well as on alabaster vessels (cf. Schmidt 1973: figs. 128.H3484/5 (jar, Hissar IIIC), 130.H3498 (bottle, Hissar IIIC)).

Designs of a perfect circle with a central dot occur also on Early Minoan seals and are characteristic of Middle Minoan seals. Cf. Betts 1989: 25-6, Nos. 20, 23-4, 34, 35, 39-41, etc.



## 229

**Object:** grey, dark grey, black marble, 16.5x16x5mm. Low, thin, bi-faced “pearl” seal, close to rhomboid shape with curved sides; perforation sides with rhomboid side profile, back slightly carinated, base slightly convex. Perforated (3mm.) on long axis. Broken from wear above part of perforation.

**Technique:** linear drill for body and thin legs, head with round-globular edged drill.

**Description:** goat to left or two headed animal (long horned head to left; head with small ears in “V” shape to right).

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid, North Iraq (or North Syria-South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** base shape close to some Halaf and early Ubaid pendants' decorated face, but place of perforation differs from that of pendants in its lengthwise location. Shape and engraving technique typical of Ubaid 3 glyptic when for the first time we encounter the use of the round-globular drill in the depiction of individual animals standing in "point group 1" layout. Most of these excavated examples come from Tepe Gawra. For lentoids and pendants with single animals in the said technique or in linear drill technique from Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period cf. Von Wickede 1990: 145-6, 258, 269, Tab. 3, Abb. 32.8 (quadruped, Tepe Gawra, level XVI, early Ubaid period), Nos. 218, 219 (head with small ears in "V" shape), 220 (combined linear and round edged drills), 221 (combined linear and round edged drills, leg position), 223 (combined linear and round edged drills). The motif of a two headed quadruped is not found among the excavated animal repertoire of Ubaid 3 glyptic. It first occurs on purchased gables and hemispheroids dated at the earliest to Ubaid 4 and where it is engraved only with linear drills. Cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 51 (large gable, North Syria); Keel-Leu 1991: No. 16 (hemispheroid, double headed quadruped, Susa C period, West Iran); WFC No. 403 (gable, with lists).



230

**Object:** opaque red-brown marble, 17x15x5.5mm. Gable pearl with gable perforation side profile, flat oval base truncated on short sides. Perforation (3mm.), on long axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with very thin drill and shallow (depth: 1mm.) drilled dots (1.5mm) with round edged drill; perforation from both ends formed into smaller, round perforation tunnel; ovoid cut and polished around perforation hole (cut and hole: 7x5mm.).

**Description:** stag or goat standing to right, head turned back.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid period, North Iraq (or Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape, motif and engraving style are typical of early Ubaid period glyptic from Tepe Gawra. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Nos. 217-223 (No. 220-same pose of individual animal and engraving technique, Nos. 222, 223-pendants with identical technique and location of drilled dots on animals).



231

**Object:** pink, red, grey, black serpentine with cream veins with patina, 23x22x9mm. Sub-pearl (almost diskoid), almost flat top slightly slanting to curved sides; truncated on sides of perforation, sub-oval base, truncated on sides. Perforated (5mm.) on long axis perpendicular to base design.

**Technique:** thin, sharp edged linear drill; round (globular) drill for dot; perforation from two sides narrowing to smaller hole in center.

**Description:** human figure, standing, head with pointed top to right, spread legs and hands, holding curved implement(?) in left hand, wearing long belt. Large drilled dot in lower left field.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid period (or beginning of later Ubaid period), North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape typical of Ubaid 3 glyptic and is continued to Ubaid 4. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258. For close shape in later Ubaid seals cf. Keel-Leu 1991: No. 1 (round base, Luristan, Susa A, with lists). The combined thin linear and round drill technique is found in early Ubaid depictions of animals and disappears in the later Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 260. The thin, linear engraving style of the present human figure is very close to that of animals represented on pendants and pearl seals from Tepe Gawra dating from the early Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 219, 221, 223. The only Ubaid 3 period human figure found in excavated context is depicted in a wider linear engraving style. However, it's base layout in a similar symmetrical layout and animals are depicted on the sides of the human figure. Cf. ibid.: No. 227 (Tell al-'Uwaili). The pointed head of the present human figure is typical of later Ubaid representations of human figures. However, these usually have a triangular chest.



232

**Object:** black serpentine, 15.5x15x5.5mm. Low reel shaped seal (or grooved disc) flat, round base and top. Comparatively large perforation (4mm.) in groove reaching base on one side. Worn.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with fine, thin drills and small and tiny drilled dots with round edged drills.

**Description:** side A: wild ass or horse(?) walking to left with drilled dots for part of head, end of body and tiny dots at ends of four thin legs, small raised ear, and small angle with tiny dot above and below. Side B: unidentified caprid standing with lowered head (grazing?) with drilled dots for part of head and end of body, small lines or dots at ends of legs and small stroke above.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid period, North Iraq, North Syria, (or North-East Iran, Hissar

horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size close to a Halaf period reel with double grooves and to an early Ubaid period reel with square base decorated with geometric designs on base. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 180 (Cavi Tarlasi, Halaf period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 167:7 (Tell Kurdu, Amuq E, later Ubaid period=Von Wickede 1990: No. 234, early Ubaid period). Shape also common in Hissar I-IIA glyptic where it is decorated with geometric designs. Cf. Schmidt 1973: 56, Nos. H4447; H4534; H3434; H3435; H3726; H370; H4443. Engraving technique, most features of the animals and the small filling motifs are characteristics of early Ubaid period representations of animals on pearls and pendants from Tepe Gawra. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 218, 219, 222, 223.

## C. Later Prehistoric Stamp Seals: Later Chalcolithic to beginning of Early Bronze Age (early and later Ubaid period, Gawra/early Uruk period and later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, second half of 5th - beginning of 3rd millennium) with few later pieces

91

Most of the seals under this headline originate in the later Ubaid culture and the Uruk cultures. The few items dated to the early Ubaid period are entered here because of their close resemblance to the later Ubaid glyptic. The prolific glyptic manufacture of the early Uruk period with its various local styles is well reflected in the WFC. Most prominent are examples of the Gawra Style and the Gable Style. No comparable examples of the pure Susiana Style are found in the WFC. The nominal number of zoomorphic depictions from this era in the WFC is similar to that from excavated sites. A few of these zoomorphic representations are new additions to the known zoomorphic repertoire of these glyptic cultures. Cf. WFC No. 454. The number of small gable seals and gable seals of various sizes with geometric motifs in the WFC is impressive. These pieces are an important contribution to the understanding of the formation of this shape and to the overall repertoire of gable seals. The number of later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" pieces in the

present Collection is small in comparison to the earlier Uruk phase. Further more, most of these items are also of Northern origin. Some, however, do reflect strong Southern stylistic influences, others continue older local Northern glyptic traditions. Of the later Uruk period stamp seals in the WFC the largest nominal number of seals show close affinities with excavated material from Tell Brak. However, others find their closest parallels in excavated material from sites in a much wider geographical range: that is from North Iraq, North- West or North-East Iran, Anatolia and West or South Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. The WFC also has a small group of early solid cylinder seals typical of Syrian manufacture. For chronological sub-divisions and dating of the later Chalcolithic glyptic periods (that is from the early Uruk period) and the early Bronze Age glyptic cultures, their overall archaeological titles and/or regional names and their correspondence cf. especially Von Wickede 1990: 217-238, Tabs. 1-3; Collon 1993: 7, 13-31, 205, Tab. 1.

### (A) Close bodied seals and handled seals

#### 1. Large and small pearl seals and related shapes



233

**Object:** cream, dark brown limestone with brown veins, 25x24x10.5mm. Pearl shaped seal with curved top gable side profile and slightly convex base (almost lentoid side profile); irregular ovoid base with straight sides under perforation (almost rectangular with very rounded corners). Large perforation (6mm.) on long axis. Chipped on base and sides.

**Technique:** fairly deep and shallow linear cut with sharp end drills.

**Description:** long central divider line crossed by short line and few diagonal strokes within open-ended square with very few small strokes in outer field.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th

millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid), North Iraq (or Syria-South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape developed and common in early Ubaid period, cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3. The design is a simplified version of the grid criss-cross design and is close to the square with cross design. For similar criss-cross designs with few lines on Halaf period pendants and on an early Ubaid seal, cf. ibid.: Nos. 131, 144 (Arpachiyah, Halaf period), 162 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period), Abb. 32.7 (Tepe Gawra, level XVI-XV). Type of design close to WFC No. 148 (with cross in center), but more open.



234

**Object:** white, cream, brown, black marble, 32.5x31.5x9.5mm. Low lentoid with gable top, slightly convex oval base with two deep angle notches on sides of perforations reaching base and back. Large perforation (7mm.) on long axis. Broken above most of perforation

canal. Broken in half and reattached in modern times.

**Technique:** deep, narrow linear drill work with thin, sharp edged drill; even perforation with round edged rotating drill, probably of metal.

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross widely spaced resembling cross within double square frame.

92

**Date/origin:** later 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid) South-East Anatolia (or Syria, North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3 (early and later Ubaid periods), Nos. 514 (smaller, without base notches, Hassek Hoyuk, later Ubaid period), 541, 549, 550 (same size and base notches, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). Shape of base close to WFC Nos. 221, 250-1 but more regular. The earliest examples of "plane group p2mm" design on round bases are found in Halaf period glyptic decorating large, low handled seals, cf. *ibid.*, Nos. 91, 201 (Arpachiyah), 202 (Çavı Tarlası). This layout rarely occurs on round or ovoid based seals from the Ubaid periods. Cf. *ibid.*, No. 503 (lentoid pearl, ovoid notched base, Tepe Gawra). For a more developed design of a similar type on a large, low gabled hemispheroid cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 32 (Ubaid period or later). For wide spaced linear design on gables cf. WFC No. 225.

For the design on the so called "Poids de filet" from Khirokitia, Cyprus and for their relations to the Neolithic pieces from Sha'ar ha-Golan and Ras Shamra cf. *ibid.*: 69-70.



235

**Object:** mottled black serpentine, 19x16x7.5mm. Ovoid pearl, with carinated top; round corners gable perforation sides profile; sub-ovoid base truncated on short sides. Perforated (3mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear drill work with pointed drill.

**Description:** irregular criss-cross design within curved frame with some lines extending frame.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid (Ubaid 4) period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia (or South-West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Abb. 5.2, Tab. 3. Design is a crude representation of the common Ubaid 4 ovoid motif. For the motif in different layouts and with different fill cf. *ibid.*, Nos. 239, 240, 241 (impressions, Tepe Gawra, late Ubaid period), 541 (close shape and motif, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). For criss-cross designs without oval frame on flattened, oval based pearls and hemispheroids cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 106, 109-10 (Susa A).



236

**Object:** dark grey, brownish-greenish serpentine, 24x21x9mm. Ovoid pearl seal with flattened top and gable shaped perforation side profile, ovoid base. Elongated ovoid perforation (3.5x5.5mm.) below top. Small chip on base.

**Technique:** deep, even, linear cut with broad drill with sharp, pointed end.

**Description:** two sets of three parallel chevrons back to back.

**Date/origin:** later 5th- first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid period), Syria, North Iraq (or North-East Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape typical to Ubaid glyptic. For identical design on a smaller, lower ovoid cf. WFC No. 213. For very similar parallel zigzag designs cf. Homes-Fredericq 1972: fig. 27 (lentoid, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, Ubaid II period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191:1 (low conoidal, Amuq F), 2 (ridge handle, Amuq F); Schmidt 1937: Nos. H3376 (handled, Hissar I), H4596 (handled, Hissar I), H3365 (handled, Hissar I), H3377 (handled, Hissar I); Noveck/Gorelick 1975-6: No. 6 (gabled hemispheroid, deep cut design as on present seal, North Syria or Western Iran, Susa B(?), ca. 3300 B.C.); Buchanan 1981: No. 15 (boss on high sloping oval base, deep cut, Ubaid period), 16 (rounded oblong pyramid, Ubaid period), 38 (hemispheroid, deep cut, view direct, Ubaid period or later); Doumet 1992: No. 3 (hemispheroid, Ubaid Period). Doumet 1992: 146: "Le zigzag semble caractéristique de l'époque d'Obeid".



237

**Object:** blue serpentine, 19x18x8mm. Gabled pearl, semi-ovoid base narrowing in one end and straight on one side. Broken on top of perforation (6mm. wide), on long axis.

**Technique:** very faint incisions and deeper linear cuts with thin, triangular edged drill; perforation with very thin half-ring in tunnel.

**Description:** cross with very small central drill hole, few radiating short strokes in quadrant edges.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq (or West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape is a transitional form

between the gabled pearl shaped seals with ovoid bases and the early types of gabled seals. Both seal forms are typical of later Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. The base design occurs already in the Hassuna-Samarra period, cf. WFC No. 54.



238

**Object:** black-dark brown serpentine, 23x21x6mm. Low, gabled pearl, irregular ovoid base with two small angle notches below perforation holes. Comparatively large perforation (5mm. wide) on long axis. Broken above most of perforation tunnel!

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear and curved cut with fairly wide drill (negative cut in relief?).

**Description:** circular floral design: rosette. Five elongated oval petals encircling central drilled circle. All within five arched petals.

**Discussion/comparanda:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Iraq (or South-West Iran, Susa A horizon).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape identical to WFC No. 234, but smaller. The four or five petalled flower motif within petalled frames is a typical layout of later Ubaid glyptic. For examples with four petals from Tepe Gawra cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 242 (round impression, level XIII), 257 (rectangular impression, level XII), 514 (gabled hemispheroid, level XII), 515 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII). For the design with more petals from Susa A cf. Delaporte 1920: No. S.105 (impression imprinted four times on a clay bulla by a flat round based seal). Cf. also the stroke-filled four petalled rosette with encircled central dots and arched lines outside petals on a large gable seal from the Amuq in Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 380:7 (design more linear than present seal). For similar cut and an almost identical design cf. WFC No. 239 below (gable pearl) and for the motif as an arched negative design with a central drilled hole cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 187 1, 2 (hemispheroids, 5th-4th millennium).



239

**Object:** red, black serpentine, 21x19x9.5mm. Gable pearl, uneven ovoid base. Large perforation (one side: 5mm.,

otherside: 6x7mm.), on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep drilled dot with large rounded drill, shallower semi-triangular cut with large, blunt drill (negative cut?).

**Description:** encircled central drilled dot defined by six irregular arcs forming spoked or angular six-petaled flower.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Syria, South-West Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and material very close to WFC No. 240 below. A many spoked circular design of same type and cutting technique is found on two later Ubaid impressions from Degrimentepe. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 335, 336. Cf. also the four petalled designs on later Ubaid seals, ibid.: Nos. 514 (gable pearl with sub round base, same negative[?] engraving technique, Hassek Hoyuk) 515 (low hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII). For similar negative(?) cut foliate design cf. WFC No 238 above. For oval based gable hemispheroid cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 67.



240

**Object:** red, dark brown-black serpentine, 17x15.5x7.5mm. Gable pearl, with one gable lentoid perforation side profile and one straight based gable perforation side profile; irregular sub-rectangular base with curved wide sides and rounded corners. Sub-ovoid perforation (5x6mm.) below gable top, cutting into back, on long axis. Broken and chipped on one base corner.

**Technique:** fairly deep drilled dots (5mm. or 4mm.; depth:3mm.) with two large rounded drills, linear cut with thin drill for cross.

**Description:** four drilled dots radially arranged with six-rayed star-rosette in center.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, early Ubaid period (or end of later Ubaid period), Syria, Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape typical of Ubaid period and very close to WFC No. 239 (identical material). For an early Ubaid period pearl seal with gable perforation side profile, cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 214 (rhomboid pearl, four encircled dots base design, Tepe Gawra, level XVII). The star and four drilled dots motifs occur in early Ubaid glyptic on separate seals, while the dot-filled cross motif is found already in Halaf glyptic. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 206 (Ras Shamra, Halaf period), 214 (Tepe Gawra, level XVII), 218 (Tepe Gawra, level XVII). After the early Ubaid period drilled dots virtually disappear from the glyptic repertoire until they reappear during the ending later Ubaid period, mainly in South-West Syria and Lebanon. Cf. ibid.: 268, Abb 43 1-4 (No. 4: gable, five encircled dots, Byblos). For four dot



241

**Object:** dark grey-green serpentine, 20x15x7mm. Sub-tabloid with low hemispheroid back and short sides profile, flat, rectangular base with rounded corners, close to half-barrel shape. Comparatively large "pear-like" perforation (5x6mm.) reaching base and forming angle on back, on short axis. Secondary ovoid perforation or break (2.5x3.5mm.) from back perforation to base.

**Technique:** shallow, linear cut with thin drill on back and sides; deep and shallow linear cut on base with thin drill with pointed edge and larger angular drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** back: widthwise groove near each short edge. Side A (narrow): linear groove with few faint diagonal strokes. Side B (narrow): gazelle or ibex(?) facing left. Base: angle-filled cross with angle or triangle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Ubaid period. Uruk period (probably Gawra/early Uruk period), Syria, North Iraq (Tell Brak horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the early tabloids from the later Ubaid period or later Chalcolithic era have a slightly rounded or lentoid back. However, unlike the present piece they are usually perforated on their long axis. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Nos. 494 (Tell al-'Uwaili), 554 (side A: human figure, side B: same motif as on present piece, Tepe Gawra), 558 (Tulul at-Talataf). Uruk period tabloids usually have a more rigorous tabloid shape with flat top and base with angular corners. A change in the location of the perforation occurs on gable seals and tabloids between the later Ubaid period (long axis) and the Gawra/early Uruk period (short axis). By analogy, we can infer a similar process for sub-tabloids such as the present piece. For a flat back tabloid of similar proportions to the present piece, perforated on short axis cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 158 (decorated on both sides, bought Arab Punar, West Mesopotamia, Uruk period). The geometric "point group 4mm" layout with a simple angle-cross design is a common motif from the later Ubaid period to the late Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 4. On tabloids it is found from the later Chalcolithic era to the later Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: No. 554; Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 360 (Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 204, 6; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 156-7 (Tell Brak).



242

**Object:** dark grey-black serpentine, 14x9x4mm. Lentoid pearl seal with lentoid perforation side profile; elongated ovoid base (almost rectangular with rounded corners) with uneven angular notches from perforation. Perforation (one end: 3.5mm.; other end: 4mm.) cutting into back on one side and on base on other side, on long axis.

**Technique:** shallow, sharp curved linear and linear cut with thin drill; perforation technique same as WFC No. 243.

**Description:** "Eight-shape" enclosed by double frame of slightly curved lines.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid period), North Iraq (or South Iraq, or West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 243 below but flatter and with rounder contour. For very similar shapes cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 219 (slightly thicker ovoid base, same side profile, caprine, Tepe Gawra, level X, early Ubaid period), 225 (larger and identical base shape and perforation technique, leaf motif of close type, Eridu, early Ubaid period). For an undecorated bead of similar shape cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 100:5 (Judeideh, First Mixed Range, Amuq B?). Design close to the "eye" and flower motifs most common in Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 32.9 (rhomboid pearl seal, similar engraving technique, Tepe Gawra, level XV, early Ubaid period) and WFC No. 244. See also Buchanan 1981: No. 21 (thicker elongated oval, decorated on both sides with groups of parallel lines, said to be from Tepe Giyan); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 181.10 (similar, though more linear design, gable seal).



243

**Object:** dark grey-black serpentine, 21x12x6.5mm. Lentoid pearl with lentoid perforation side profile; elongated sub-rhomboid, convex base truncated on sides of perforation with angular notches from perforation. Large sub-triangular-ovoid perforation (5x6mm.) cutting into back on one side and into base on other side, on long axis.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear cut and incisions with thin and slightly thicker pointed edge drills; perforation from both sides with large round metal drill.

**Description:** radiating diagonal strokes from edge to empty center in sub-cross formation with vertical line in center fields near elongated edges.

**Date/origin:** late 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid

period (probably later Ubaid period), North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape originating in the Halaf period but most common during the Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3, Nos. 218 (caprine, Tepe Gawra, level XVIII, early Ubaid period), 499 (identical perforation technique, same engraving technique and similar design, Tepe Gawra, level XII, later Ubaid period). Cf. also *ibid.*: No. 503 (same shape and similar perforation technique, Tepe Gawra, later Ubaid period). For undecorated beads of same or similar shape cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 160.17 (baked clay, from Kurdu, Amuq E), 166:11 (obsidian, Amuq E). For similar design with central line and/or central cross cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 516 (same engraving technique, Tepe Gawra, level XII, later Ubaid period); WFC Nos. 132 (handled rhomboid seal), 204, 206.



244

**Object:** black-grey flint, 18x15x9.5mm. Lentoid pearl with high rounded top back, gabled perforation side profile, irregular slightly convex rhomboid base (close to ovoid on one side of base), truncated on perforation edges. Perforation (3.5mm.) on long axis. Chipped on back and at one perforation hole.

**Technique:** linear and curved cut with fairly thin drill; cut and polished circle around perforation hole (cut and hole: 7mm.).

**Description:** "eye" design. Three sets of two lozenges, each with central line and lines ending in chevrons in fields between sets and near edges.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early), North Iraq (or North Syria or North-East Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape with the irregular sub-rhomboid base is most common in early Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3, No. 217 (identical base shape with very similar design, Tepe Gawra, level XVII, early Ubaid period), 218 (base shape, Tepe Gawra, level XVIII, early Ubaid period), 220 (similar base shape, Tepe Gawra, level XVII, early Ubaid period). Flower or eye motifs arranged in moving mirror symmetry "band group pma2" layout and adjusted to shape of base frequently decorate pearl seals during the Ubaid period. Cf. *ibid.*: Abb. 32.9 (Tepe Gawra, level XV, early Ubaid period), 498 (identical base design and similar base shape, Tulul at-Talatat, later Ubaid period). Common shape for Syrian undecorated beads in the Ubaid period, as well as in Hissar I. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 166:11 (Amuq E), 252:13, 14 (Amuq G), 296:13 (Amuq H); Schmidt 1937: Nos. H27272 (decorated with linear design, Hissar I). An almost identical zig-zag design occurs on a sub-ovoid impression from Gawra, level XIII-Well, Ubaid II period, cf. Homes-Fredericq

1970: fig. 32. Simpler, more condensed designs of two lozenges crossed by a central line are a comparatively common feature on variously shaped seals of Uruk date from Iranian sites. This later design probably developed from the earlier Ubaid design represented by the Gawra impression and our seal. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 256 (hemispheroid, Susa B); Delaporte, I, No. S.49b (loop-handle, round base, from Susa); Schmidt 1937: Nos. H4602, H3047 (handled seals, Hissar I), H3829 (button seal, Hissar I).

95



245

**Object:** cream burnt clay, 28x19x13mm. Rhomboid pearl seal with sharp ends, convex rhomboid back and base, lentoid perforation side profile. Comparatively small perforation (3mm.) on long axis. Chipped near one perforation end.

**Technique:** linear grooves with sharp stone (flint?) drill.

**Description:** zig-zag lines covering whole field.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid period), North Iraq, South-East Anatolia, Luristan, South-West Iran (or North Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 244 above and typical of Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3, Nos. 220 (less obviously rhomboid, Tepe Gawra, level XVII, early Ubaid period), 544 (flatter lentoid side profile, Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period), 548 (Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period). For an identically shaped undecorated baked clay bead(?) cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 160.17 (Kurdu, Amuq E). Zig-zag motifs in similar layouts (mainly "band group p1m") appear frequently on the earliest Aceramic Neolithic gypsum seals and impressions from Tell Bourqas and Tell al-Kaum (south Syria) and on Hassuna-Samarra period large stone and limestone "poids de filet" from Haggi Firuz Tepe (Luristan). Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abbs. 8, 27, 1 (with small dots), 2, Nos. 4, 6, 9, 10, 11-13. However, zig-zags as on the present pearl in "band group pma2" layout are a typical Ubaid motif decorating excavated pieces mainly from Iranian sites. Cf. *ibid.*: Abbs. 8, 39.16 (flattened rhomboid pearl, Hakalan or Dum Gar Parcina, Luristan, Ubaid period), 17 (flattened lentoid pearl, Hakalan or Dum Gar Parcina, Luristan, Ubaid period)(2), Nos. 486 (three impressions of convex, ovoid based pearl, Sarafabad, Ubaid period), 497 ("V" shaped pendant, Tello, later Ubaid period). Cf. also. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 175.6 (similar shape, identical design, circa 5th millennium B.C.) and the similar motif in Von Wickede 1990: No. 505 (discoid, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period). Cf. also the similar zig-zag designs bisected by vertical lines on gabled hemispheroids and a lentoid from the same sites in *ibid.*: Abb. 39.10, 14, 15.

246



**Object:** pink, white, grey veins agate. 18x11x9mm. Irregular pearl seal-bead(?), close to ovoid and rectangular shaped pearl seals with carinated back and lentoid perforation side profile. Perforation sides profile diagonally cut into one side of back and base in opposite directions; convex, irregular rhomboid base with rounded corners. Perforation (4x5mm.) on long axis. Overall shape close to irregular "cylinder" seal. Chipped near one perforation hole.

**Technique:** even curved and linear cut with medium size drill; diagonal perforation sides cut and polished (cut and hole: 4x9mm.).

**Description:** two angle-filled leaves with small curved line on end, back to back, within ovoid frame.

**Date/origin:** second half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (or Gawra/early Uruk period), North Iraq, South-East Anatolia (or North Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC Nos. 242, 244 above. Base shape identical to Von Wickede 1990: No. 217 (similar layout and motifs, Tepe Gawra, level XVII, early Ubaid period). For undecorated beads of same or similar shapes cf. Braudwood/Braudwood 1960: figs. 166:10, 11 (Amuq E), 252:12, 16 (Amuq G). The ovoid leaf motif occurs in the early Ubaid period and is a common feature of later North Ubaid and Gawra/early Uruk periods glyptic. The leaf's field is either left empty or is more frequently filled with concentric ovoids, angle rows, hatched diagonal lines or one line. In the later Ubaid period the leaf motif is usually arranged in "point groups m, 2 and mm2" layouts, whereas in the Gawra period the preference is for "point groups 3 or 3m" layouts, that is layouts which differ from the present seal's. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 263, Abb. 7, Tab. 4, Nos. 225 (rectangular pearl seal, Eridu, early Ubaid period), 239-244 (impressions, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 265 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, end of later Ubaid period-beginning of Gawra period), 596 (Tell Abu Husaini, later Ubaid period), 514 (Hassek Hoyuk, later Ubaid period), 538 (Tepe Gawra, level XI A, Gawra period), 539 (Tell Qaling Aga, Gawra period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 34 (Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period). For "point group mm2" layout of ovoid quatrefoil flowers on pearl seals cf. also Buchanan/ Moorey 1984: Nos. 79 (bought Jerablus, perhaps from Bostepe, W. Mesopotamia), 80 (identical angular decoration inside leafs, bought Meerza, perhaps from Tell Basher) and on gable cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 177.6 (two hatched leafs and two flower buds, North Syria, Anatolia), 181.9 (hatched quatrefoil design, North Syria, Anatolia).

247



**Object:** green serpentine or diorite with white veins, 14.5x9.5x7mm. Lentoid pearl seal-bead with carinated rectangular back and base with straight and slightly rounded angle corners, lentoid-gable perforation side profile. Perforation (3mm.) on long axis. Chipped on one perforation side.

**Technique:** deep and shallower linear cut with medium and thin size drills with pointed ends.

**Description:** back and base: cross off center with one line longer than other and additional thin cross line.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape a variety of lentoid-gable pearl seals with carinated backs typical of Ubaid period glyptic. However, the sharp bi-faced gable profile is most commonly found on later Ubaid pearl seals. For same or similar side profiles on rectangular or ovoid based pearl seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3, Nos. 540, 541, 542 (Dégrimentepe, later Ubaid period). A plain cross as the only seal ornament cannot in itself date the piece for it decorates a variety of seal shapes. For examples from the later Ubaid period onwards cf. ibid.: No. 507 (flattened hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, later Ubaid period); Delaporte, I, No. S.18 (cylinder seal, cross on each side, Susa); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 406 (hemispheroid, Jamdet Nasr, Jamdet Nasr period). Cf. also WFC Nos. 170 (small hemispheroid), 299 (flattened irregular hemispheroid), 417 (rectangular, cross on sides A and B).



248

**Object:** grey-green serpentine, 28x16x7.5mm. Elongated rhomboid pearl seal with flat top back curved toward edges, truncated on narrow sides, lentoid perforation side profile; rhomboid base. Two sets of perforations on long axis. First set: two perforation holes in center of back (3x4mm.) drilled on back and pierced to second set. Second set: short edges perforation (4x4.5mm.). First set back perforation holes not meeting on back. Probably suspended by two strings.

**Technique:** deep open-grooved linear cut with fairly thick drill; identical perforation technique for both perforation tunnels. Each tunnel pierced from two sides and narrowing in center. First set perforation holes pierced from back with rounded drill held at an angle to base and from short ends of seal; second set perforation holes cut and polished (cut and hole: 5x7mm.) and drilled with rounded drill held

horizontally.

**Description:** filled zig-zag design.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, Western Iran (probably South-West Iran, Susa A horizon), (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for pearl seal of very similar shape (though rounder) and design (though less deeply cut) cf. WFC. No. 245 and Von Wickede 1990: No. 498 (Tulul at-Talatat, later Ubaid period). Common shape for pearl beads from Tell Hissar III, cf. Schmidt 1937: Nos. H3590.1 (decorated with five encircled drilled holes), H3591.3, 5-7 (3: plain, 5-7: decorated with linear designs), H5594 (plain), H2856:1 (decorated with linear zigzag design). According to Von Wickede, a zig-zag motif in "band group pma2" layout such as the one represented on the present specimen, is unique to Ubaid glyptic. Cf. *ibid.*: 261, No. 486 (three impressions, Tepe Sabz). For line-filled and filled zig-zag designs in same cutting technique on rhomboid pearl seals cf. Erlenmyer 1989: Nos. 173.6, 174.6, 8.



249

**Object:** black serpentine, 29.5x29x5mm. Irregular sub-square lentoid seal-amulet in shape of irregular quadrifol ("beheaded bird or butterfly"). One perforation side with three deep angular notches forming four "petals" (or birds' tail and wings); other perforation side with one longer angle notch. Flattened, slightly convex back and base, lentoid perforation side profile. Perforated from central notch on "shorter" axis. Rhomboid perforation with elongated oval perforation cutting back on one side (4x10mm.) and similar, but slightly shorter perforation cutting base (4x8mm.). Chipped on edge.

**Technique:** deep linear cuts with angle edged drill and shallower linear cuts with thinner drill with sharp edge; perforation cut from both sides with medium size round drill narrowing toward edge.

**Description:** back: deep diagonal lines to center continuing side contour notches. Diagonal line-filled cross with additional cross lines and central dividing line in two quadrants. Base: deep diagonal lines to center continuing contour notches. Diagonal cross with few lines to center in three quadrants and zig-zag line in fourth quadrant.

**Date/origin:** end of 5th-beginning of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably end of early Ubaid-beginning of later Ubaid), South-East Anatolia (or North Syria, North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** due to its quadrifol shape the present seal-amulet belongs to one of the most distinctive types of ancient seal-pendants: the quadrifol and double-ax shaped seal-pendants. On the one hand this

group of seal-pendants exhibit a "family" resemblance throughout the long life span of the type (from the Ceramic Neolithic to later Ubaid) and on the other hand, the individual specimens also represent local and periodic changes and development. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 255, Tab. 3, Nos. 28 (human-mask[?] seal-pendant, Tell Ramad, Amuq A), 166, 167 (low handled quatrefoil and double-ax seal-pendant, Arpatchiya, Halaf period), 224 (lentoid, Tell i-Iblis), 226 (loop-handled quatrefoil seal-pendant, Mersin, early Ubaid period), 493 (low loop-handled double-ax seal-pendant, Tell al-'Uwaili, later Ubaid period), 540, 543 (quatrefoil and double-ax lentoid pearl seal-pendant, Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period); Amiet, No. 1 (double-ax seal-pendant, Susa A). The closest parallels to the present piece are the above mentioned Ubaid examples (the earlier Ubaid pieces by their sub-squarish base shape; the later Ubaid pieces from Degrimentepe by their lentoid side profile, base decoration, layout and engraving technique). The thin, flattened form of the present piece also connects it to the thin Ubaid period pearl-seals with low lentoid side profile. Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 30 (close shape, decorated on both sides, same engraving technique, almost identical design on base, Ubaid period); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 194.4 (carinated rhomboid, dated tentatively to 4th millennium, Iran); Von der Osten 1957: No. 341 (pyramidal perforated back); WFC No. 117 (thin fly-shaped amulet-pendant).

97



250

**Object:** dark grey-black serpentine, 25x22.5x6mm. Flattened oval pearl with thin lentoid perforation side profile, sub-oval base with deep angular perforation notches reaching back and base forming "violin-shaped" base. Rhomboid perforation (4x4.5mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** shallow curved and linear drill cut; perforation technique same as WFC No. 234.

**Description:** two eyes (two arcs enclosing short line) within two curved lines off empty center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia (or North Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape in Ubaid and Gawra/early Uruk glyptic. For undecorated beads of same shape from Judeideh, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 166: 12-3 (Amuq E). The "eye" motif is a favorite Ubaid motif and is not found on Gawra period seals. Cf. especially Von Wickede 1990: 263, Nos. 495 (same "eye" motif, Tell Abu Husaini, later Ubaid period), 501 (Tepe Gawra, level XI, later Ubaid period), 503 (Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 541 (gabled pearl, same "eye" motif, Gegrimentepe, later Ubaid period), 545 (Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period); Amiet, Nos. 262, 264-6 (shape of most items is thinner and higher, Susa C). For shape or similar shape cf. also

Delaporte 1920: No. A.21 (zoomorphic design); Buchanan 1981, No. 30 (Ubaid period or later); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 79 (gabled pearl, bought Jérablus, perhaps from Bostepe, West Mesopotamia), 239 (flat base, source unknown, Iran?); 240 (flat base, linear curved design, source unknown, Iran?); Goff 1963: fig. 62.8 (limestone bead, Tepe Gawra, Ninive Period, linear design). For similar design cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 181.10 (gable seal), 199.2 (low hemispheroid).



251

**Object:** dark blue, grey-black serpentine, 27x25x7.5mm. Gabled pearl with rounded top carinated back and gabled perforation side profile; elongated sub-ovoid base with one elongated rhomboid side and two large angle notches from perforation. Large rhomboid perforation (one end: 7x8mm.; other end: 7x12mm.). Broken probably during manufacture due to very thin base. Perforation cutting back and far into base, on long axis. Comparatively large irregular oval bore (3.5x8mm.) on base below perforation tunnel, resulting from wear of thin base.

**Technique:** linear incisions with thin, sharp edged drill.

**Description:** line with short irregular diagonal strokes off it ("leaf" design) off center. Two vertical lines near edges, on other side offield.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, later Chalcolithic period (shape probably later Ubaid; design probably Gawra/early Uruk period. However, the piece as a whole could date from either periods), North Iraq (or South-East Anatolia, North Syria or Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and perforation technique very close to WFC No. 250. The "leaf" motif is most popular during the later Ubaid period. It continues to occur in the Gawra/early Uruk period in areas which have been under Ubaid culture influence. In the later period the motif is occasionally cut with less force and assurance than in the Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 263, note 21. For similar faint depictions of the "leaf" motif not covering the whole base surface cf. ibid.: (reel shape, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Gawra, early Uruk period), 159 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level X, end of Gawra/early Uruk period). The present incompetent base design was in most likelihood engraved after the secondary ovoid base hole occurred on the base (during manufacture?), since the design is adjusted to the break and is not disturbed by the hole. This piece may have originally been intended and used as a bead. For similar deep perforations on a lentoid shaped bead cf. especially Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 166:12 (Amuq E).



252

**Object:** light grey, cream limestone with red-brown veins. 21x18x8.5mm. Flattened ovoid with one back side slightly slanting; ovoid base with small angle notches below perforation holes ("violin" shaped base). Perforation (4x4.5mm.) reaching base, on shortaxis.

**Technique:** deep drill work with fairly wide drill

**Description:** irregular linear design. Central line crossed or reached by diagonal and straight lines with additional parallel line. (Stylized scorpion or human figure?)

**Date/origin:** second half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, South-East Anatolia or South-West Iran (Susa A phase).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for close shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. Shape close to WFC No. 231 but more regular and perforated on short axis. For impressions with similar irregular linear designs and engraving technique cf. ibid.: No. 330 (Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). For round impressions and hemispheroids with similar designs in Susa A glyptic cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 115, 117 (similar flattened top, base shape and place of perforation), 121, 159.



253

**Object:** mottled grey serpentine, 27x26.5x19mm. Sub-pearl seal with straight cut side profile on one end and narrow rounded side profile on other end; slightly concave, half ovoid base. Perforation (one end: 5x5.5mm.; other end: 4x5mm) near base, on long axis.

**Technique:** coarse base work with wide and sharp drill; thin linear drill.

**Description:** back: two parallel, short grooves above base on one side and one groove on other side, three parallel linear strokes on top. Base: goat or gazelle facing right with two legs, above unidentified motif (caprine [mouflon?] or human figure?) facing left and scorpion(?) below, with unidentified filling(?) motifs.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk periods, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** unusual shape. The pearl

seal with semi-circular side profile appears during the early Ubaid period and is in continued use until the late Uruk period. Its popularity as a seal shape grows in the Gawra/early Uruk period. The present seal could be a large "pearl" later cut into half. However, the straight side of this seal does not seem to be a later cut, and there is no sign of an earlier perforation. Large, unusually shaped stamp seals occur in Tepe Gawra glyptic especially in the Gawra/early Uruk period (Leveles XI-A, X). Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 84, 87 (similar size), 110 (similar base shape), 157, 171. For linear grooves on rounded back cf. ibid.: fig. 66 (large, low hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period). Motifs and layout occur both in the Ubaid and the Gawra/early Uruk periods.



254

**Object:** white marble with opaque white and brown on one side, 20x20x5.5mm. Low lentoid, bi-faced gable side profile, round base. Perforation (4mm.) in center.

**Technique:** broad body cut with wide and blunt drills; linear legs and heads cut with narrower angle edged drill; shallow eyes.

**Description:** two reclining moufflon sheep back to back in mirror design, with small curved line in front of each sheep.

**Date/origin:** first half (or middle) of 4th millennium, later Ubaid (Ubaid 4 horizon) or early Gawra/early Uruk periods, North-East Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and stone same as WFC No. 216. For an identical back-to back layout of two horned animals with similar or identical filling motifs decorating similarly shaped seals cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 253:11 (low, almost bi-faced gable with square base, engraving still much more linear, Amuq G, shape typical to Gawra/early Uruk glyptic); Keel-Leu 1991: Nos. 26 (low gable, round base, hatched animal bodies, North Syria, South-East Anatolia, Ubaid 4 horizon), 27 (identical shape, flatter and broader engraving style with hatched bodies, North Syria, South-East Anatolia, Ubaid 4 horizon). The engraving style, type and posture of the animals on the present seal are all very close to those of the crouching animals arranged in rows with one animal placed in mirror pose to the rest depicted on a round based gable from Tell Brak. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 319 (Uruk period = Von Wickede 1990: No. 565, late Chalcolithic). The two horned tete-beche animal layout is a common motif on Susa A hemispheroids. However, there the animals are usually depicted in a different, much more linear engraving style. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 127-131 and No. 170 (broader engraving style, influenced by or from Luristan).



255

**Object:** mottled dark-grey-greenish diorite, 34.5x26x6.5mm. Low gabled rhomboid pearl, gable perforation side profile; rhomboid base truncated on both ends of perforation with small angular notch cutting into back and one base end. Sub-triangular-ovoid perforation (5x6mm.) on one side and rhomboid perforation (5mm.) on other side, on long axis in opposition to design.

**Technique:** broad, flattened cut and linear cut with wide, blunt drill and thin drill with pointed end; perforation technique close to WFC No. 243 on one side and to WFC No. 250 on other side.

**Description:** stag facing left, three legs, one hatched horn, small tail. Above and horizontal to large stag, smaller human figure with small stump for neck or head (beheaded?); triangular chest decorated with parallel diagonal lines; one lowered hand with ankle curved toward body; one short hand; emphasized, curved hips and legs: feet turned to sides. Few diagonal parallel strokes below stag.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, South-East Anatolia (Degrimentepe horizon) (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** a comparatively naturalistic depiction. A typical Ubaid period shape. Cf. especially the later Ubaid examples from Degrimentepe in Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 341 (impression, base shape), 359 (impression, base shape, human figure, animals, layout and engraving style), 546 (identical shape, similar engraving technique and depiction of animal). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 80 (close shape, hatched quatrefoil design, North Syria, 5th millennium), 139 (identical back shape, convex face, chevron cross, hatched above and below, Tell Brak B672, with lists); Erlenmeyer 1989: 53, No. 194, 3rd on 5th row (close shape, similar human figure with head and foliage "hands", Iran, 4th millennium[?]). "Although no direct parallels have been found for this unusual and attractive group, the above classification would seem the most appropriate" (ibid.: 25). However, the Iranian designation suggested by Erlenmeyer is wrong for the nearest parallel to this Erlenmeyer piece is a Northern ovoid pearl depicting the same figure and filling motifs on base. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 557 (Tell Halaf[?], later Chalcolithic period). The nearest figurative parallels to all the components of the present base design (that is: large animals depicted with smaller human figures, type of human figure, engraving technique and layout) are found among impressions and seals from later Ubaid period Degrimentepe, where the excavated material also shows a general preference for pearl seals of various shapes. Cf.

Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 349 (impression, animal and engraving technique), 359 (see above), 362, 363, 364, 366, 367 (human type, pose and engraving technique), 546 (see above), 549-550 (gabled pearls with ovoid base, engraving technique). For same broad engraving technique depicting an animal with decorated body cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 191.4 (hemispheroid). In its broad engraving style the present stag is also close to the engraving style of naturalistic animals depicted on Gawra period gable seals from North Syria and Anatolia. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191:7 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq F); Keel-Leu 1991: No. 32 (Amuq F horizon, North Syria, South East Anatolia); Buchanan 1981: Nos. 48, 57; Erlenmeyer, Nos. 178.6, 180.1; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 92-3; WFC Nos. 396, 401.



256

**Object:** black serpentine, 28.5x25x12mm. Gabled pearl, irregular oval base. Elongated ovoid perforation (4x7mm.) near edge of top, on long axis forming small sub-loop narrow handle on top. Design parallel to perforation.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with fairly broad and thin drills; perforation holes reaching back from two sides and narrowing in center below top.

**Description:** back: few diagonal strokes below perforation. Base: elongated, stick-like human figure with thin raised hands bent at ankles, holding club or spear in right hand, spread legs with one feet to right. Raised headed serpent on each side. "Master of the Animals" as "Lord of Snakes."

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Iraq (or East Anatolia or "Luristan?").

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and perforation technique typical to Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. For similar stick-like human figures on square impressions with very rounded corners from Tepe Gawra, level XII, cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 77 (same heads, level XII); Von Wickede 1990: No. 267 (same stand with lowered hands bent at ankles, holding bow in right hand, bird and filling motifs, level XII?). The "Lord of the Animals" motif appears as a glyptic motif first in the early Ubaid period. From that period onwards the motif is represented in many variations with human figures of varied proportions and types, with a variety of animals, birds and/or snakes and in various engraving techniques. In the Ubaid period the motif is usually presented in a firm "point group m" layout, where as later on, and especially in the later Uruk period, the animals are usually depicted in one of the more rotating layouts with the human figure in the center. Cf. Von Wickede

1990: 149-150, 177, 265, note 20, Nos. 227 (pendant, Tell al-'Uwaili, South Iraq, Ubaid 3 period), 250 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 358, 360 (ovoid impressions, Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period), 362 (broken ovoid impressions, different human figure, small snake on side, Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period), 399 (impression, human figure with raised hands and wider body, head broken off, with snakes on sides, Arslantepe, later Uruk period), 400 (round impression, human figure with similar head but wider body and hands, Arslantepe, later Uruk period), 401 (impressions, Arslantepe, later Uruk period), 449 (three round impressions of same seal, human figure with curved snakes and rhomboid filling motifs, Susa C, later Uruk period), 559 (hemispheroid, Tell Asmar, later Chalcolithic period), 561 (impression, Tepe Giyan, later Chalcolithic period), 562 (large round impression, Tell Asmar, later Chalcolithic period), 563 (large hemispheroid, Tell Asmar, later Chalcolithic period); Amiet 1972: 28, 72, 30, No. 176 (broken hemispheroid, human figure with raised arms bent at ankles, holding curved snake, with motifs in field, sharper, more linear cut, Luristan seal from Susa A). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 195.6 (hemispheroid, standing male figure between snakes and filling motifs, more linear and detailed style, probably from South-West Iran, 4th millennium); Keel-Leu 1991: No. 14 (tabloid, identical design to present piece, but ithiphallic human figure, serpent heads toward base and sharper, thinner cut, Luristan, Susa A horizon); Herzfeld 1933: Pl. I, No. 102, fig. 25 (tabloid, Tepe Giyan); Vollenweider 1967: No. 7 (disc or bi-convex lentoid, compare side A but see also side B, probably from the region of Tepe Giyan), 10 (button seal, frontal human figure with raised hands, bent legs in knees to sides, similar posture of hands). On the attitude of human figures with raised hands on seals from Tepe Giyan, Tepe Hissar and Susa cf. Vollenweider 1967: No. 10.



257

**Object:** white, cream marble with red-pink veins, 29x27x12.5mm. Carinated gable-pearl, ovoid base. Large perforation (8mm.) on long axis. Secondary ovoid perforation (or brake) (4x6mm.) in center of back above original perforation canal reaching original perforation.

**Technique:** fairly deep thin and broad linear and curved cut with sharp and angular drills.

**Description:** human figure with very small head (amputated-like), outstretched raised arms holding small implements (club or sword and hammer or flail?) and wide open legs (feet bent to left) over two(?) headed serpent(?) on left. Bird above, six-rayed star or flower within oval below, curved linear motifs above and strokes in field.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape typical to later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk glyptic, mainly from the North. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 258, Tab. 3. For human figures with snakes cf. ibid.: Nos. 261 (impression, crouching human of more elongated proportions, Tepe Gawra, level XII, end of later Ubaid period), 294 (broken impression, human in similar posture to present seal holding elongated implement over large, two-headed snake, head broken, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A, Gawra period). For humans with similar cut-off heads cf. ibid.: Nos. 299 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII-XI/X A[?]), 362, 363, 367 (impressions, different body proportions and engraving technique, Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period). The present human figure's posture is close to the so-called "birth posture". However, in the "birth posture" the legs are bent at the knees and sideways at an angle and the human figure is usually very symmetrically portrayed. On this pearl seal only the feet are bent and the squat frontal human figure seems to be running to left and attacking(?) the large serpent represented below on the left. For humans in "birth posture" on hemispheroids cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 190.1 (two figures in birth posture[?] with snakes to either side), 5 (human figure in birth posture, various filling motifs). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 73 (low oval carinated hemispheroid, two creatures [human?], presumably standing in copulation); WFC No. 278 (flat ovoid, posture). Another possible interpretation of the present depiction is to "read" the pose of the human figure as that of a man (naked?) with raised hands praying. The "star" motif in the lower field could then represent an heavenly body: sun or star. Its appearance strengthens the above interpretation. For a similar figure on a large handled seal depicted with other human figures and caprids cf. Eisenberg 1992: 5-7, notes 21-24 (different, more linear and sharper engraving style, Tell Kitan, Palestine, early Bronze Age I). Under both interpretations the present seal's base motif is probably a cultic scene. The Tell Kitan seal is believed by Eisenberg to be a local North Palestine product. Cf. ibid.: 7. The present seal is probably an earlier Northern product which could be viewed as an example of the influence of North Mesopotamian glyptic on the more peripheral, local, North Palestinian glyptic production.



258

**Object:** black-grey serpentine, 19.5x18x9mm. Low gabled pearl with rounded back, oval base with small notch near perforation holes. Comparatively large perforation (5mm.), on long axis. Design parallel to perforation. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** linear cut with very thin, sharp drill and slightly wider drill.

**Description:** human figure standing, head to right, triangular chest, very long arms lowered, parallel to body. Two schematized quadrupeds or strokes on sides near edge of stone.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape typical of later Ubaid period but found also in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Tab. 3. The thicker "chest" line may indicate a diagonal sword, arrow case or slash across chest worn by the figure from left shoulder to waist. Triangular chest human figures begin to appear on seals and impressions in the early Ubaid period, are most common in the later Ubaid period and are still represented in the Gawra period. Cf. ibid.: 266. Thin, long limbed, elongated human figures whose triangular chest is indicated only with contour lines occur only in the late Chalcolithic era. For the same type of figure represented in motion on hemispheroids cf. Homès-Fredericq 1970: fig. 73 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period); Von Wicked 1990: No. 555 ("Lord of the animals or birds"?, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, end of later Ubaid or Gawra periods). If the side motifs on the present pearl seal represent animals, than the design is a schematized and condensed version of the "Lord of Animals" motif. The largest number of excavated seals depicting this motif belong to the later Chalcolithic era. Although all the human figures in the examples from this era are represented with elongated proportions, head in profile, raised hands (different hand pose than on present seal) and triangular chest, there are regional differences in their depiction. For example in the way the triangular chest is cut: with contour lines only (as in the examples from Tepe Gawra); with full cut chest; with chest decorated with diagonal or angular parallel stripes; or with bulky shoulders chest). Cf. ibid.: Nos. 555 (Tepe Gawra), 557 (pearl seal, Tell Halaf?), 559 (Susa A), 560 (Nairab), 561 (Tepe Giyan), 562 (Tell Asmar), 563 (Susa A). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 70 (Western Iran).



259

**Object:** black volcanic stone, 28x21x8mm. Hemispheroid pearl with carinated hemispheroid perforation side profile; ovoid (close to rhomboid) base with truncated sides near perforation. Perforation (4mm.) reaching back on one side, on long axis. Small chip on back.

**Technique:** linear cut with fine drill and small drilled dots with round edged drill.

**Description:** three human figures one after the other walking or dancing to left, hands to sides and slightly lowered (holding hands?). Central figure with linear motif across upper body from shoulder to left (sash?) and drilled dot between legs. Fourth human figure(?) horizontal above central figure with drilled dot below it. Cultic scene.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period, Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq (or South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** transitional shape between the early Ubaid period pearl seals and the Uruk period pearl seals. Probably dating from the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. Humans in "band group p1" layout occur in the early Ubaid period but humans or animals arranged in line (band group p1 or p111" layouts are typical to Gawra/early Uruk glyptic. Cf. ibid.: 265, Abb. 8, Tab. 4, Nos. 251 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level XIII), 283 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI A), 300 (ovoid[?] impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI A). For a human figure placed horizontally above animals cf. ibid.: Nos. 284 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI A), 359 (rhomboid impression, Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period. For human figure cut in an identical technique to the present depictions of human figures cf. ibid.: Abb. 41.4 (hemispheroid, very similar stand, Tepe Gawra, level XI). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 73 (low oval hemispheroid, two human figures, first half of 4th millennium?).

## 2. Sub-tabloids (close to pearl seals), discs, discoids, tabloids, flat ovoids and related shapes



**260**

**Object:** black-bluish-grey serpentine, 16x15.5x6mm. Tabloid with slightly lentoid side profile (close to straight angle pearl seal) and very wide angle notches on perforation ends. Perforated (3mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** two depths of thin linear drill work.

**Description:** three lines crossed near top by one line, few diagonal strokes in same direction in fields.

**Date/origin:** end of 5th millennium-first half of 4th millennium, end of early Ubaid or later Ubaid periods, North Syria, North or South Iraq (or West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: 257, Nos. 494 ("plain group p111" design, Tell al-'Uwaili, later Ubaid period), 554 (a. human figure with few

diagonal strokes; b. angle-filled cross, Tepe Gawra, late Chalcolithicera); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 34 (a. stag; b. horned animal, bought Jerablus, "from Arslan Tash"). For similar design with few lines cf. WFC No. 95 (pendant, Halaf period).



**261**

**Object:** black serpentine, 11.5x10.5x6.5mm. Tabloid with slightly rounded corners and very wide angle concavities on sides of perforation (close to flattened ovoid pearl). Perforated (2.5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** two depths of sharp edged linear drill work.

**Description:** side A: three central lines with parallel strokes on sides. Side B: cross filled with small cross in quadrants, few strokes on edge.

**Date/origin:** end of 5th -first half of 4th millennium, end of early Ubaid or later Ubaid periods, North Syria, North or South Iraq (or West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for cross-filled cross on Halaf period pieces cf. WFC Nos. 96, 141. The design on side A is probably a development from the double cross design common in Halaf glyptic and continued in early Ubaid period, cf. especially, Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 32.5 (pendant, Tepe Gawra, level XVI - XV). For cross with edge strokes in quadrants on a square impression from Tepe Gawra cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 82 (level XI-A, Uruk period = Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 33.6a, level XII - XI-A, later Ubaid period), and for small tabloids of similar shape cf. WFC No. 94. For small tabloids with sharper corners and contours decorated on both sides with geometric designs cf. WFC Nos. 271, 274, 404.



**262**

**Object:** black serpentine, 17x15x5mm. Thin, flat pearl with base ends slightly narrowing at edges, grooved on narrow sides (close to elongated tabloid with curved and rounded corners and to grooved disc). Perforation (3x3.5mm.) reaching base, on long axis. Small secondary piercing (1mm.) on top reaching perforation canal.

**Technique:** linear drill work of two depths with thin, sharp edged drills.

**Description:** two parallel lines with irregular diagonal criss-cross design off parallel lines. Central field empty but for two crosses, stroke and small drilled hole on one end.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid period, North Iraq (or North-West Syria, South Iraq or Luristan).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the small back piercing is very evenly drilled and therefore does not result from wear but is intentional. The piece may have first been conceived as a flat, rectangular pendant with central drilled hole, a typically early Ubaid shape. The present seal is probably an example of the transitional stage between such pendants and early pearl shaped seals. Cf. Von Wickedé 1990: No. 210 (Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). Thus, the shape dates this piece to the early Ubaid period. Its features are on the one hand very close to those of straight angle pearls with lentoid perforation side profile and on the other hand to early grooved sides discoids. Cf. ibid.: 257-258, Tab. 3, Nos. 180 (Çavı Tarlası, Halaf period), 225 (Eridu, early Ubaid period), 234 (Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period), 494 (Tell al-'Uwaili, later Ubaid period). For a very similar design and layout on a low handled, rectangular based seal from the Halaf period and for an identical design on an early Ubaid pendant cf. ibid.: Abb. 32.5 (Tepe Gawra, level XVI - XV, early Ubaid period), No. 185 (Ras Shamra, Halaf period). For grooved discs with geometric designs cf. Schmidt 1937: Nos. H4447, H4534, H3435, H3726, H4444 (Hissar I-IIa). The grooved disc form is common in Hissar I-IIa, but rare elsewhere. Cf. ibid.: 56; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: p. XV. Tabloids are rare in Hissar.



264

103

**Object:** black serpentine with white and brown patina, 14x13x6mm. Disc, round back and base. Perforated (2mm.) horizontally.

**Technique:** deep linear and triangular positive(?) cut with angular edged and blunt drills.

**Description:** side (narrow): continuous zig-zag border filled on both sides with triangles. Side A (wide): positive: quatrefoil flower within circular frame; negative: triangle-filled cross. Side B (wide): positive: angle-filled double lined cross within circular frame; negative: angle-filled cross with triangles in angle-quadrants.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North or South Iraq, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the triangle built "plane group pma2" layout decorating the sides of this disc occurs only in later Ubaid glyptic; the flower motif within a frame and the deep or positive cut are also common glyptic traits in this period. Cf. Von Wickedé 1990: Nos. 240, 242 (impressions, Tepe Gawra, level XIII), 331 (Degirmentepe), 491, 492 (Tell al-'Uwaili). For discs of similar size, decorated in the same deep cut on one side only cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 182.1, 2 (disc, angle-filled cross, Ubaid).



263

**Object:** cream, light grey beach rock, 15.5x15x7mm. Discoid, curved back sides, flat round base. Fairly small perforation (2x2.5mm.) reaching base, on long axis. Chipped on one side.

**Technique:** very faint engraving or incisions.

**Description:** semi-cruciform design. Central line with strokes off it to one side, crossed on two sides by vertical lines not meeting, with small angles near edges in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium, early Ubaid period, North-West Syria - South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the shape of this piece is very close to that of flattened hemispheroids of similar size. Some of these hemispheroids are also decorated with faint cruciform designs. Cf. Braudwood/Braudwood 1960: fig. 380:3 (Amuq); Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 51 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period), 238 (Arpachiyah, Halaf period = Von Wickedé 1990: Abb. 31.1, unstratified context).



265

**Object:** grey-black limestone with cream patina, 14.5x14.5x7mm. Disc, flat, round slightly slanting top, flat base, grooved around sides. Comparatively large horizontal perforation (4x4.5mm.); drilled hole (2x2.5mm.) to perforation tunnel.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear drill work; perforation from two sides narrowing to very small hole off center; top perforation with angular drill and round drill.

**Description:** cross.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid period), North or South Iraq, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** grooved side recalls the Halaf and early Ubaid periods grooved sub-discs. Cf. WFC No. 118. Common perforation technique for early Chalcolithic seals. Shape closest to later Ubaid period pieces. Cf. WFC No. 264. For a simple cross as the only decoration cf. WFC Nos. 170 (small hemispheroid), 299 (flattened hemispheroid).

**266**

104

**Object:** dark green serpentine, 15x13x5mm. Disc. Not perforated. Broken on side.

**Technique:** shallow, faint strokes on side with thin drill; fairly deep linear cut with rounded and broad drills on sides, A and B.

**Description:** side: few parallel vertical strokes, horizontal stroke, drilled dots. Side A: four horizontal parallel lines with three vertical parallel lines off center on one side above. Side B: mouflon standing to left with undulating horn, two short legs. Fish or duck above, horned head below.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, South-East Anatolia, North Syria or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 119 (unperforated with similar geometric and side designs) but narrower and flatter. Side A design is a linear variant of "point group mm2" layout found cut in the same technique in Ubaid 4 glyptic. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Abb. 7, No. 328 (three impressions, Degirmentepe). Cf. also the similar, though less strictly linear design, in Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 380:6 (hemispheroid, round base, Amuq F or G). The inclusion of fish, birds and floral elements as filling motifs is particularly noted in the later Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 262. For similar combination of motifs and engraving technique as on side B, cf. ibid.: No. 266 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII?); WFC Nos. 268, 423.

group mm2" layout on later Ubaid impressions cf. ibid.: 262. Nos. 240, 242, 244 (Tepe Gawra, level XII), 253 (Tepe Gawra, level XII). Engraving style very close to WFC No. 253.

**268**

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 12.5x12x6mm. Sub-discoid, uneven (almost squarish) back, rounded back contours, slanting to base on one side; squarish base with curved corners and two straight sides with one curved in notch. Perforation (3.5x3mm.) oblique to design, on long axis. Cracked on one side.

**Technique:** deep cut with fairly wide angular edged drill and thin, pointed drill.

**Description:** animal (goat or dog) reclining to left, undulating horn(?) or thin ovoid filling motif above, two legs, long lowered tail.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid/early Gawra period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape very close to WFC No. 267 above. Individual animals represented in "point group 1" layout with filling motifs on round or squarish bases are common on later Ubaid glyptic from Tepe Gawra, level XI. However, none are identical to the present representation. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 61 (squarish impression), 63, 64, 65, 67, 69, 70. Cf. also a slightly later example from Tepe Gawra in Von Wicked 1990: No. 293 (square impression, reclining caprid with filling motif above, level XI/X-A, end of early Ubaid/early Gawra periods).

**261**

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 19x19x7mm. Sub-discoid with flat back, rounded back contours slanting to base on sides of perforation; smaller, sub-ovoid base truncated on sides of perforation with angle notches formed by perforation - "violin shaped". Comparatively large horizontal perforation (3x4.5mm.), oblique to design. Cracked on one side.

**Technique:** shallow, unclear cut with broad and thin linear drills.

**Description:** four floral motifs (buds) pointed to center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Iraq (or North Syria, South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to Von Wicked 1990: No. 513 (Tepe Gawra, later Ubaid period). For more organized, developed and clearer floral designs in "point

**269**

**Object:** dark brown, dark grey serpentine with brown patina, 26.5x26.5x7mm. Disc, round top and base. Not perforated. No means for suspension.

**Technique:** deep linear work with rounded drill; shallow central drilled hole and deep drilled edged dots with round edged drill.

**Description:** double cross-rosette (star) with large central drilled hole and drilled hole near edge in each triangle forming circle.

**Date/origin:** later 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period, North Iraq or North Iran (from Tepe Giyan?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for a perforated disc with high sides of similar large size and very similar design on convex base cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 26 (said to be from Tepe Giyan). For cross or double cross with drilled dots cf. Amiet 1972: No. 59 (handled seal, cross with three dots in quadrants, Susa A); Schmidt 1937: No. H3428 (button seal, double cross, less regular design without central hole, Hissar IC). For an almost identical design on an Ubaid period lentoid cf. WFC Nos. 216.



**210**

**Object:** shining silvery-black hematite, 12.5x8.5x9mm. Uneven pyramid (close to rectangular cube) with two slanting back sides, uneven, slanting top with rounded and angular corners, trapezoid short back sides profile with rounded and angular corners, rectangular base with rounded and angular corners. Comparatively large perforation (5x5mm.) off center of back, on short axis. Chipped on corner of side A.

**Technique:** faint curved and linear strokes with very thin drill with pointed end, small drilled dot with rounded end drill; perforation from both sides narrowing to much smaller hole (2mm.) in center.

**Description:** side A (wide): two legged animal facing left, thin body, long neck, very small drilled dot at end of body on lower field and small stroke above drilled dot within ovoid near edge. Side B (narrow): plain. Side C (wide): small animal with two legs and small drilled head turned back and two strokes (straight and curved) below. Side D (narrow): curved and straight strokes on one side of field. Base: many small strokes, few vertical and diagonal parallel lines connected and unconnected with two small drilled dots.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th millennium (or middle of 4th millennium), early Ubaid period (or Gawra/early Uruk period), Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** hematite is a rare glyptic material in any prehistoric period. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: 51, fig. 89 ("... fut probablement importé", gable hemispheroid, faint radiating strokes with small central drilled hole, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Uruk period). In the WFC there are two other examples, cf. WFC Nos. 21, 373. Perforation technique is of a type occurring in the early Ubaid on a cut-top pyramidal seal, cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 228 (Ras al-'Amya'). The faint linear and dot animal designs on the present pyramid recall the clearer early Ubaid depictions of animals and thin linear designs. Cf. Ibid.: Nos. 216, 217, 219, 221, 222 (pendants and pearl seals, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). The Gawra/early Uruk period hematite hemispheroid mentioned above represents a similar faint design, otherwise differing in its symmetrical, radiating layout from the present piece's designs. This faintness and shallowness are probably due in both examples to the hard hematite stone.



**211**

**Object:** black serpentine, 12x9x4mm. Thin tabloid, lengthwise groove on long back sides. Comparatively large perforation (3.5x3mm.) forming small notches on base and back, on long axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin to medium size drills; perforation cut from both sides.

**Description:** side A: central line lengthwise crossed by three lines unevenly spaced. Side B: double cross.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-early 3rd millennium, Ubaid period (or Uruk period), North Iraq, Syria (Tell Brak horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the long axis perforation tabloids have a pearl-like character. They begin to appear in the early Ubaid period and continue to occur in the North well into the Uruk period. The two grooves on the longer sides of the present tabloid recall the thin "double button" square based seals of the Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 257, Tab. 3, No. 234 (Kurdu, early Ubaid period). For a tabloid of close shape and size cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 156 (side A: line in center; side B: angle-filled cross, Tell Brak). For a slightly larger tabloid decorated on both sides, cf. Doumet 1992: 16, No. 8 (side A: identical to side B of present tabloid; side B: two stylized serpents, with lists).

105



**212**

**Object:** dark and light brown, cream veins agate, 14x10.5x7. Rectangular, close to tabloid. Sidewise ovoid perforation (4x3mm.), on long axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size drill with pointed edge; perforated from both sides, slightly narrowing in center of tunnel.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design widely spaced.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-early 3rd millennium, Ubaid period (or Uruk period), North Iraq, Syria (Tell Brak horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for long axis perforated tabloids and rectangles cf. WFC No. 271 above. The "plane group p2mm" grid criss-cross design of the present piece is most characteristic of the Neolithic era. In post Hassuna-Sammar glyptic this layout is either comparatively rare (it occasionally occurs for example in the later Ubaid period) or disappears. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Tab. 4. For a similar rectangle decorated with quadrupeds cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 168 (Tepe Gawra, level X, Uruk period). For the

similar "plane group p4mm" criss-cross grid layout on later prehistoric pieces cf. *ibid.*: No. 154 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XI, Uruk period); WFC No. 404 (tabloid).



## 213

**Object:** black-dark brown serpentine, 16x12x4mm. Tabloid, flat back and angular corners, low rectangular center above flat rectangular perforation sides profile; center of base in relief. Comparatively large perforation (3.5x3mm.), on long axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with wide, blunt drill and medium size drill.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design in relief in center within lower, broad linear frame on long sides (representing door, entrance?).

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Ubaid period (or Uruk period, probably Gawra/early Uruk period), North Iraq, Syria (Tell Brak horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for pearl-like tabloids cf. WFC No. 272 above. A group of tabloids with short axis perforation from Tell Brak dated to the later Ubaid period are decorated on one side with "ladder" or zigzag linear designs in relief. Cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. XVIII, No. 8 (side B: two rows of zigzags on sides of central plain relief, Tell Brak, "Eye Temple"); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 157 (side B: two "ladders", Tell Brak G140). For "ladder" design on tabloids with short axis perforation cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 111b; Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 203.1 (side A: two triangles above "ladders" with two lines between them [shrine?]; side B: angle-filled cross). For same motif on a gable seal cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 130. For tabloid with three rows of "plane group p4mm" layout cf. *ibid.*: No. 204.3 (angle-filled cross on other side). For the "plane group p2mm" grid layout cf. WFC No. 272 above.



## 214

**Object:** black serpentine, 17x14x6mm. Tabloid Perforation (4.3.5mm.), on long axis. Broken on sides C, D.

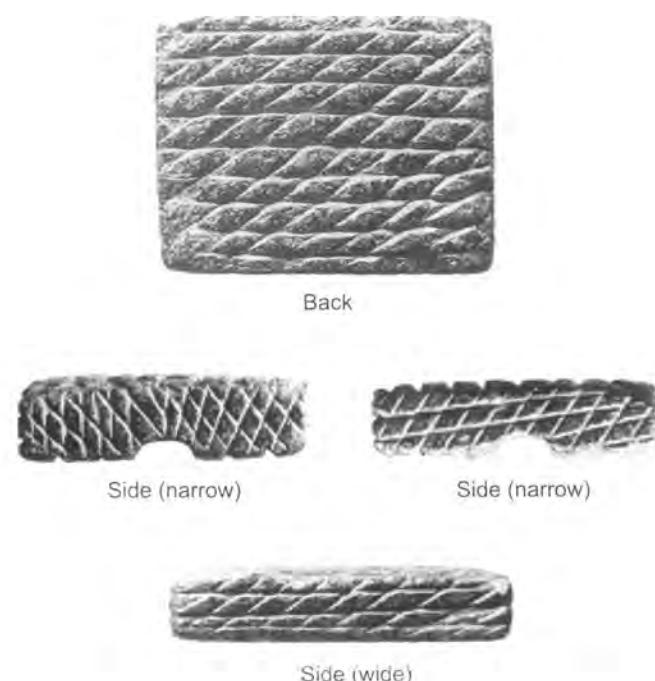
**Technique:** linear cut with fine, thin drills with pointed, triangular and ovoid ends.

**Description:** side A (wide): angle-filled cross with two angles within three-sided linear frame. Side B (narrow):

reversed triangle band. Side C (wide): eight-rayed rosette with central drilled dot (sunburst pattern) within linear frame and small triangles frame. Side D (narrow): reversed band filled with small triangles.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, Iraq, South-East Anatolia, (or North or Western Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** tabloids with long axis perforation are most common in the later Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. The "band group pma2" layout which decorates the sides of the present tabloid first appears in the early Ubaid period. Then its elements are leaf-like or eye-like. Cf. *ibid.*: Abb. 8, No. 225 (straight-angle pearl, Eridu). In the later Ubaid period this layout is very common throughout the different Ubaid cultural centers and its elements are frequently triangles. Cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 331 (rectangular impression, Degrimentepe), 491, 492 (handled seal and gable pearl with rectangular base, Tell al-'Uwaili), 518 (low handled square based seal, Susa A); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 253:3 (small pyramid, Amuq G). (In the Iranian area the triangle built "band group pma2" layout changes during the early Uruk period into "point group mm2" layout. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 263). For a border frame of small triangles or angles cf. WFC No. 402 (gable). The rosette-sunburst "point group n" layout is not a very common motif. It occurs mainly in the later Ubaid period (with small triangles or stroke border) and in the Gawra/early Uruk period (without the border) on small hemispheroids or round impressions. Cf. *ibid.*: Abb. 39.7, 8 (Hakalan and Dum Gar Parcina), Nos. 335, 336 (Degrimentepe), 512 (Tepe Gawra, level XII?). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 187.4, 6; Schmidt 1937: No. H4508 (small ridge handle seal, Hissar I); WFC No. 228 (straight-angle pearl). The angle-filled cross design on side A of the present piece is also a frequent later Ubaid layout. However, in itself it cannot date the piece for it occurs frequently also in the Uruk periods, on tabloids as well as on other shapes. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 4. For this design on tabloids cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 203.12; 204.3, 6; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 156-7; WFC No. 241 (sub-tabloid).





Base

215

**Object:** black serpentine, 42x35x10mm. Tabloid. Not perforated. Central bas-relief (3mm. deep; 7mm. wide; 42mm. long) with wide, half circular profile, cut on long axis of base. Suspension cord could be tied round deep central bas-relief. However, more likely not meant to be suspended.

**Technique:** very deep broad central band cut with large, blunt drill; deep linear cut with medium size drills; shallow, fine linear cut with very thin drill with pointed end; fairly deep, small drilled dots with round edged drill; central base bas-relief cut with wide rounded drill and its center levelled with flat (metal?) implement.

**Description:** four sides and back: two variations of diagonal criss-cross designs. Base: wide lengthwise central band in bas-relief with three filled-stripes on each side divided by lengthwise lines. Stripe-filling motives below central band, from edge to center: diagonal stroke border (forming "leaf-design" with lengthwise line and part of angles in second stripe); angle row; dot-filled zigzag row. Stripe-filling motives above central band, from edge to center: dot-filled zigzag row; "leaf-design" and criss-cross design forming small crosses; angle row in opposite directions with open ended rhomboid in center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, Iraq, South-East Anatolia, Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the large wide cut band in center of base has a profile of a half perforation. This, together with this present piece's large size and shape points to the affiliation of the shape of this piece to the long axis perforated Ubaid period tabloids. The geometric designs which cover the present tabloid on all sides also resemble these tabloids, which are decorated on both sides with geometric and/or zoomorphic motifs. For slightly smaller tabloids perforated on long axis and decorated on both sides with some of the geometric motifs which appear on the present piece cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 203, 3 (reverse: line dividing two rows of chevrons), 6 (obverse: parallel zigzag [water?] and chevron border). The geometric designs on the back and sides of the present piece adjust themselves to the shape of the fields. This is characteristic of Halaf and early Ubaid periods glyptic where this adjustment to stones' shapes occurs mainly on pendant seals. Layouts of geometric motives arranged in symmetry with linear dividers between each type of geometric motif are also common features of Halaf period glyptic where they occur especially on pendants. However, these layouts are known also from later Ubaid glyptic.

Reversed linear symmetry, as on base of the present tabloid, is rare at any period. Most of the geometric motifs and layouts on the present tabloid, as well as its different depths of cuts are found in various combinations in Halaf period glyptic. Most motifs continue to appear in later glyptic periods, especially the later Ubaid and Gawra/early Uruk periods. For example, "plane group p211" layout which decorated the sides of the present tabloid is typical of the Halaf period and reappears in a variation in the later Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 261, 263, Abb. 9, Tab 4, Nos. 193 (low "ear" handle seal with square base, Cavi Tarla, Halaf period), 333 (square impressions, Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period). The "band group pma2" layout built of zigzags originates in the Aceramic Neolithic era. It reappears in the later Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: 261, 262, Abb. 8, Tab 4, Abb. 39.16, 17 (pearl seals, Halkalan and Dum Parcina), No. 497 (Tello). Dot-filled zigzag rows are not found in any excavated prehistoric glyptic. However, the combined motif of a multi linear semi-cross filled with small drilled dots within its triangular fields is seen on a late Ubaid period rhomboid pearl from Tello. Cf. ibid.: No. 502. Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 204.1 (tabloid, obverse: cross with dotted circle in each quadrant, reverse: double cross with two dotted circles). The large size, lack of perforation, lavish and full decoration of the present piece suggest that it served as a hand-held seal of a high dignitary(?) which may have been kept in a permanent place (temple?).

107



Back



Side B



Side C



Base

216

**Object:** dark red-purple serpentine with grey patina, 42.5x30.5x9mm. Rectangular tabloid with two back sides slanting toward top, flat rectangular back and base with rounded and angular corners. Not perforated. Chipped on back.

**Technique:** deep linear, sharp angle cut with large and medium angular drills with pointed edges and thin drill with pointed edge; one fairly shallow, large round drilled depression (4mm.; 1-1.5mm. deep) on base and many

shallow, large, uneven (round, sub-ovoid and sub-triangular shaped) drilled depressions (3mm.; 3.5x4mm.; 3x4.5mm.; depth: 1mm.; 1.5mm.; 2mm.) on sides with blunt round or sub-triangular end drill or implement. Top polished with very thin object leaving very shallow semi-grid criss-cross design continuous to three narrow sides.

**Description:** sides: A (narrow) - three drilled holes; B and D (wide) - six drilled holes; C (narrow) - four drilled holes. Base (with wider side up): human figure standing on upper right corner, raised hands with two fingers, dagger (or another weapon) in left hand. Five, two legged animals: gazelle in lower right corner with legs toward human figure and head to left center; two animals above each other in center, facing in opposite directions with legs toward human figure (wild ass or goat with head facing top; large bull(?) with head facing base, raised tail, legs ending in three or four "fingers"); large stag on left, with legs toward human figure, raised tail, head to top right and smaller horned animal (goat or stag's young) between stag's legs with head in opposite direction and legs toward human figure. Horned head in front of large stag's front leg near top.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period, Gawra/early Uruk period, South-East Anatolia (or Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** no identical tabloid is known from excavations. For large unperforated tabloid cf. WFC No. 275 (later Ubaid period) above. The animal on the present seal's base interpreted here as "large bull(?)" may represent a bull headed demon with head to center and three and four fingered hands. For animal headed demon with prongs as fingers surrounded by spread winged bird, linear beast, horned animal and two snakes(?) cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 70 (carinated oval hemispheroid, thread-like linear style, Western Iran, with examples of tabloids from Luristan and Gawra). For the Susa B horned goddess or priestess depicted in a very different engraving style cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 459 (impression). If the base design is read with the shorter side of the present tabloid up, the large stag is placed in the top row and the human figure - in the lower row. According to this reading of the scene the layout is a three row variant of "plane group p111" layout. Thus, the scene depicts rows of animals or horned heads in a layout which is typical of Gawra/early Uruk period glyptic. Cf. ibid.: 265, Abb. 34.5, 6 (rectangular impressions, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A ?), Nos. 271-274, 276, 279 (round and rectangular impressions, Tepe Gawra, level XI A). However, in all of these Tepe Gawra impressions the animals are rigidly arranged and all face the same direction. Furthermore, none of these Tepe Gawra impressions include a human figure and their engraving style differs from that of the present tabloid. The combined representation of a human figure facing in one direction and a group of caprids facing the other direction or circling around the human figure (with or without additional filling motives) and all arranged in a rotating "point group 1" layout is a common representation and layout of later Ubaid period impressions. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 246, 248, 252 (No. 252: human figure with prong fingers, Tepe Gawra, level XIII). The sharp, angular, linear engraving technique of the animals and body of the hyman figure on the present

tabloid finds its closest parallels on a number of short axis gable seals. However, on these gable seals the animals' number of legs and their layout differ from those on our tabloid. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 380:10 (Amuq F); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 178.1, 179.5, 180.4, 181.3; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 91, 98, 100; Von der Osten 1957: Nos. 41, 53. The present human figure with its sharp, linear body and limbs and with its large rounded head also differs from the popular later Ubaid period human figures with their triangular chests. These are found mainly on impressions in the "Gawra Style". The present human figure also differs from the other human figures with elongated bodies typical of the "Gawra style". The nearest parallels to the present human figure are also found on short axis gable seals. Cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 118 (bought Aleppo), 119 (bought Deve Huyuk). However, cf. also the small round headed human figure with animals in Von Wickede 1990: No. 359 (Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period) and the representations of reclining caprids with two legs in ibid.: Nos. 353, 357 (Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period). The present motif is probably a Northern (South-East Anatolian?) variation of the "Lord of Animals" glyptic motif known from the early Ubaid period and depicted frequently in various engraving styles and layouts during the later Chalcolithic era. Cf. Amiet 1972: 28-9; Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 227, 248, 250, 252, 552, 555-557, 559-563; Keel-Leu 1991: Nos. 13, 14. Other possibilities are to "read" the seals' base design as representing either a hunting scene or a shepherd. If the interpretation of the "large stag... and smaller horned animal (... stag's young)" on the base of the present piece is the correct "reading" then it is one of the earliest known glyptic depictions of the motif. Furthermore, it strengthens the overall interpretation of the scene as depicting domestic animals led by a shepherd.



211

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 27x9x7mm. Elongated ovoid with flat, oval top and base. Perforation (4mm.) in center of wide sides, on short axis, in opposite direction to design.

**Technique:** deep, curved linear cut with medium size drills with pointed and rounded ends.

**Description:** pair of parallel serpents with wave-like bodies.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Iraq, South-East Anatolia, (or Syria, or Luristan).

**Discussion/comparanda:** comparatively rare shape close to tabloids and discoids with flat tops and bases. The short axis perforation indicates a date not earlier than the

later Ubaid period. Cf. WFC No. 241. The two serpents' representation on the present ovoid is a zoomorphic variation on the earlier (Neolithic and Halaf periods) geometric "plane group p2mg" layout. In later prehistoric glyptic this layout appears mainly in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 9, Tab. 4. For the motif of two serpents cf. ibid.: Nos. 294, 295 (ovoid impressions, Tepe Gawra, level XI/XI A, Gawra/early Uruk period). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 222.3 (ovoid pearl, entwined pair of serpents). For the motif of two serpents placed on either side of a human figure cf. WFC No. 256. Cf. also the single serpents engraved in the drilled hole technique or in the linked together drilled gouging technique of the later Uruk period in Amiet 1972: Nos. 284, 288 (elongated oval pearls, Susa C), 416 (hedgehog shaped amulet seal, Susa C); Homès-Fredericq 1970: figs. 597-8 (impressions, Ur, Jamdet Nasr period). Cf. also Delaporte 1920: No. S.197 (reclining pig or calf shaped amulet seal); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 222 (reclining pig[?], shaped amulet seal).



278

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 31x13x7mm. Elongated ovoid with flat, oval top and flat oval base, slightly slanting on one side. Comparatively small perforation (3mm.) in center, on short axis, in opposite direction to design.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with large angular drill with sharp, pointed edge.

**Description:** human figure with animals. Gazelle or mouflon sheep with two legs running(?) to right toward human figure facing(?) right with dagger or belt on hips, small, rounded head, triangular chest, raised right hand, outstretched left hand and raised left leg above unidentified motif (trampling on it?) with turtle (or secondary smaller human figure with outstretched hands). (Phot. no.I). Or, unidentified motif on left, human figure in center with outstretched hands, holding bird(?) in left hand and unidentified motif below. (Phot. no.II).

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Iraq, South-East Anatolia, (or Syria, or Luristan).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape as WFC No. 277 above. The depiction of active human figures together with animals is most common in the later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period. Human figures with triangular chests are a characteristic of later Ubaid period glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 265, 266, No. 552 (hemispheroid, similar scene and pose of human figure, Tepe Gawra, level XIII). For secondary small human figure or turtle cf. WFC Nos. 353, 406.

3. Hemispheroids, sub-hemispheroids and high conoids with round top with geometric base designs

109



279

**Object:** grey-black serpentine, 13.5x13.5x9.5mm. Irregular, high sub-hemispheroid (almost conoidal seal or wide loop handle above base); irregular, sub-circular base with short cut sides (almost ovoid base). Comparatively large perforation (5mm.).

**Technique:** thin, linear drill work with sharp, pointed drill.

**Description:** back: linear strokes on one side of perforation. Base: central line and parallel strokes radiating in four directions from edges.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq (or North Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size indicate an Ubaid date. The combined "point group mm2" design of this seal belongs to a group of designs preferred in the later Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 263, Tab. 4. For an example of this version of "group mm2" design cf. Ibid.: No. 329 (ovoid impression, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid). When the design (or its variations) occurs on round base seals it is usually less formal than on the present piece. Cf. Amiet 1972: No. 102 (hemispheroid, lenticular base, Susa A); Von der Osten 1957: fig. 6.18 (Sialk, S 117), 20 (Troy); Schmidt 1937: H4392 (button seal, Hissar I). Design is also close to WFC Nos. 406 (tabloid, more condensed without central line), 217 and to Schmidt 1973: H4646 (small handle, square base, Hissar I).



280

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 21x19x11mm. Hemispheroid, semi-circular base slightly truncated on sides of base and back, grooved above base. Large ovoid perforation (4.5x5.5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** faint linear incisions with sharp, thin edged drill.

**Description:** central line with four radiating lines from edge not meeting (semi-cross), with two additional strokes from edge near one radiating line and line crossing central

line at one end.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium or slightly later, later Ubaid period (or early Gawra/early Uruk period), North Iraq, South-West Iran (Susa B horizon).

**Discussion/comparanda:** this variation of "point group mm<sup>2</sup>" layout (cf. WFC No. 279 above) is also typical of later Ubaid period round base seals in the North and in the South (Susa B horizon hemispheroids of similar size). Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 39 (identical design and technique, lentoid, Tepe Gawra, level XII), 46 (hemispheroid, similar design and technique, Tepe Gawra, level XII); Amiet 1972: Nos. 79, 82 (hemispheroids, same and similar designs and technique, Susa B). For close design on a pearl seal cf. Buchanan, 1981: No. 30.



### 281

**Object:** grey, white marble of various shades, 15x15x9mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Large ovoid perforation (5x6.5mm.) in center.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with fairly thick rounded drill and thinner drill.

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross design.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq, South-West Iran (Susa B horizon), (or East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape not earlier than the early Ubaid period. Hemispheroids with this type of ancient base design are found especially in North Iraq during the ending later Ubaid period or Gawra period or in Susa during the early Uruk period. For hemispheroids from Tepe Gawra cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 154 (more regular lines, level X-A, ending later Ubaid, beginning of Gawra period). For hemispheroids with same design (but usually rendered with less lines and more sparsely spaced) from Susa B, cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 106 (flattened back, same base), 107, 108 ("violin-shaped" base), 109 (oval base), 110 (lenticular base), 163 (smaller base of same shape, fragment, period uncertain). The grid criss-cross design also decorates a smaller sub-hemispheroid in Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 6 (bought near Sardis) dated by the authors to the late 6th-early 5th millennium, but should be dated at the earliest to the early Ubaid period in the second half of the 5th millennium. Cf. also Mallowan 1935: No. Arp. 18 (round base, more regular design, Arpachiyah); Von der Osten 1957 fig. 6.24 (Ailsar).



### 282

**Object:** black serpentine, 16x14x8mm. Sub-hemispheroid back with two deep inlay holes; thin ovoid base worn near perforation into two notches forming "violin-shaped" base. Perforation (3x5mm.) reaching deeply into back, on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear cut with sharp, thin drill; one perforation side cut and polished around hole (cut and hole: 8x5mm.).

**Description:** back: two encircled drilled holes deeply set (hole: 3mm., encircling: 7mm.). Base: grid criss-cross design, slightly irregular, widely spaced.

**Date/origin:** middle or early second half of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq (or North Syria or Luristan).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for back encircled drilled holes presumably meant for inlay see WFC No. 226. For hemispheroids with two inlay holes on back see especially Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 63 (antelope, four back holes, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid period = Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 42.1, level XII? or XI, Gawra period), 136 (same base shape and size, faint linear animal design, two back holes, Tepe Gawra, level XI, Uruk period = Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 42.2, levels XI A - XI/XA, Gawra period). Cf. also Keel-Leu 1991: Nos. 24 (similar size and shape, thin figured motif, end of Ubaid 4/Gawra period, North Mesopotamia [Luristan?]), 25 (similar size and shape, figured motif, end of Ubaid 4/Gawra period); Buchanan/Moorey 1989: No. 44 (originally hemispheroid with two inlay holes in back, later cut, perhaps to look like bull's head, figure motif, bought Aleppo). For hemispheroids or related shapes decorated on base with grid criss-cross design cf. WFC Nos. 221, 281 (above).



### 283

**Object:** mottled dark grey serpentine with white patina, 17x17x8mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Perforation (4.5x5mm.) below top.

**Technique:** deep cut with wide angled and thin linear drills.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with one angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** later 5th-4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid) or Gawra/early Uruk period (or later Uruk period), Syria, East Anatolia, North Iraq or Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape from early Ubaid period onwards in prehistoric glyptic. Common motif on hemispheroids from various sites. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 120 (low hemispheroid, from Gawra, level XI-A, Gawra/early Uruk period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig.

380:3 (same design but less carefully cut, Amuq G); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 33 (identical, slightly smaller, Later Prehistoric seal, bought North Syria); Von der Osten 1957: pl. LXXXVI, S85, fig. 6.13 (Sialk I). Cf. also WFC Nos. 284-5 below and Von Wickede 1990: No. 262 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII?). For the design on handled seals from Susa and Hissar cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 28, 71, 158 (many concave imprints from same round based convex seal on clay, probably from button seal, Susa A); Schmidt 1937: No. H4535 (stem handle, round base, Hissar IC).



284

**Object:** black-brown serpentine, 15x15x6.5mm. Hemispheroid (or conoid with low handle), round base. Perforation wider on one side (from 5mm. wide to 3mm. wide). Broken in center of high perforation (or above handle base).

**Technique:** deep cut with thin and slightly thicker drills; perforation drilled unevenly from both sides with very thin ring off center near the narrower end.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with one angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** later 5-4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid) or Gawra/early Uruk period (or later Uruk period), Syria, East Anatolia, North Iraq or Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 283 above (if original shape is hemispheroid). Cf. especially Von Wickede 1990: No. 446 (Susa A).



filled cross (lines not meeting) with one angle in quadrants and one additional stroke in one angle.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq or Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** flattened hemispheroids occur most frequently in the later Ubaid period, are continued to be manufactured in the Gawra period and are found sporadically also in the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3; Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 49 (radiating design, from Gawra, level XII, later Ubaid period). Base design is basically of same type as WFC Nos. 283-4, but more careless. Back design very close to WFC No. 280. For hemispheroid with lines on back cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 66 (crouching gazelle on base, Tepe Gawra, level XII, later Ubaid period). For similar shape and same base design in a more developed and regular form cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 30, 32 (with linear back strokes, bought Smyrna).

111



286

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 19x18x7.5mm. Low, flattened hemispheroid with uneven back and truncated sides (back close to pearl seal); semi-round base. Small perforation (3mm.).

**Technique:** deep linear cut with sharp end drill.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with small diagonal lines or dots within one angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk periods, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 285 above, but flatter. For later Ubaid hemispheroids of same shape and/or designs, predominantly from Syria cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 28 (shape, bought Syria), 29 (with central dot, bought north coast of Syria), 32 (bought Smyrna). For hemispheroids of same shape with linear designs from Tepe Gawra cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 41, 51 (level XII, later Ubaid period). For similar or identical designs on later Ubaid and early Uruk periods hemispheroids cf. Von der Osten 1957: No. 36; Amiet 1972: No. 246 (Susa B); Buchanan 1981: No. 36; Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 182-6; Keel-Leu 1991: No. 20 (Susa I, West Iran? North Mesopotamia?, with lists).



285

**Object:** dark brown-red serpentine, 20x19.5x9mm. Flattened hemispheroid with truncated sides; sub-circular base. Large perforation (one end: 5x6mm.; other end: 4x5mm.) cutting fairly high into back, on long axis.

**Technique:** very shallow linear incisions with thin drill and deeper curved linear cuts with thicker drill.

**Description:** back: central line on top between perforation holes, with parallel line on each side and radiating strokes from back edge to center. Base: angle

## 281

**Object:** black serpentine, 21x19x8mm. "Pebble" worked into semi-hemispheroid with uneven back flattened on one side, high and rounded (close to low round handled back) on other side offcenter, uneven sub-round base, truncated and concaved on one side. Perforated (2.5x4mm.) below highest point of back, dug on back, on short axis. Secondary ancient drilling for perforation on long axis, not worked through (3x5mm.). Christie's 1993: group 315 (Marcopoli Collection).

**Technique:** deep linear cut with sharp angular ended and thicker drills; secondary perforation cut with rounded edge drills.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with small stroke, chevron, or angle within one angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** later 5th-4th millennium, Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk periods, Syria, Lebanon, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 286 above, but of less regular shape. The shape may indicate an early Ubaid date. The secondary perforation drilling technique and use of globular or round drill forming small depressions does not occur in the later Ubaid period outside of South-West Syria or Lebanon. This could either indicate this date and an origin from the said regions for the present seal, or a date in the Uruk periods and an origin from a much wider geographical range.



## 288

**Object:** black-blueish serpentine, 18.5x17.5x10mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Perforated (3mm.) above base.

**Technique:** linear cut of two depths and with two drills with pointed ends; polished circle around perforation holes (circle and hole: 7mm.).

**Description:** angle-filled cross with or without lines within one or two angles in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for an almost identical design on an ovoid impression from Tepe Gawra cf. Homerset Fredericq 1970: fig. 121 (level XI-A, Uruk period = Von

Wicked 1990, Abb. 34, 7 XI or X A?; end of later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. similar designs especially in Amiet 1972, No. 31 (Susa A); Von der Osten 1957, fig. 6, Nos. 5 (ovoid base, from Byblos, No. 1299), 9 (from Thessalia).



## 289

**Object:** blue-black serpentine, 13x13x6mm. Carinated hemispheroid, round base. Elongated, ovoid perforation (3mm. wide) offcenter. Broken above perforation.

**Technique:** fairly deep thin linear cut with sharp edged drill; perforated from both sides, narrowing toward smaller hole with very thin, low ring in center.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with diagonal line or small chevron within angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size close to WFC Nos. 168, 171, 279 and especially to Erlenmeyer 1989: 53, No. 182 (3rd on lower row). Design identical or close to WFC Nos. 286-8 above and 290-1 below.



## 290

**Object:** cream limestone, 21x22x9mm. Hemispheroid, uneven round base. Broken above original perforation (ends: 4mm. wide; center: 7mm. wide). Secondary, narrower, ancient perforation (3x4mm.) in opposite direction. Christie's 1993: group 315 (Marcopoli Collection).

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear cut and incisions with angular, pointed end drill and one cut with wider drill; original perforation with very wide rounded drill from two sides and then with thinner, rounded (metal) drill leaving mark of very thin parallel lines. The original drilling from both sides form parallel tunnels with very wide ring in center; secondary perforation with thinner, rounded (metal?) drill.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with one or two strokes or angles within one or two angles in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** base design close to WFC

No. 289 above. A wider perforation tunnel in center than on ends is rare and uncalled for. The original perforation was, therefore, probably drilled by an unexperienced hand (or by an experienced draftsman experimenting with a new[?] metal drill).



291

**Object:** black serpentine, 22x22x9mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Ovoid perforation (4x5mm.). Chipped on base. Christie's 1993: group 315 (Marcopoli Collection).

**Technique:** deep, fairly wide and narrow linear and slightly curved linear cut with sharp and blunt drills.

**Description:** angle-filled cross (almost swastika like) with stroke or angle within angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th- first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** motif basically as WFC No. 290 above but more radiating. Symmetrical radiating compositions with a sure feeling of movement begin to appear on stamp seals and pendants in the Ubaid 3 period. The radiating "cross" on this hemispheroid is of the common later Ubaid combined "point group mm2" layout type. Cf. Von Wickede: 263. The swirling cross is not found in South Ubaid glyptic. For a very close example cf. especially Buchanan 1981 No. 35 (gable hemispheroid); WFC No. 224.



292

**Object:** reddish-purple serpentine, 22x22x10.5mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Perforation (4x4.5mm.) slightly below center. Broken and chipped. Modern fake(?) or retouched by modern hand.

**Technique:** deep, wide cut with broad drill.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with triangles within one angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape as WFC No. 291 above; design as WFC No. 289 but much wider and deeper

cut. For the design, depth of cut and similar or identical engraving technique cf. Amiet 1972: No. 97 (hemispheroid, Susa A); Buchanan 1981: Nos. 34 (high hemispheroid, slight in-curve to face); Erlenmeyer 1989: 35, No. 185, second on 3rd row (hemispheroid); Keel-Leu 1991: No. 20 (smaller hemispheroid on small straight back, Susa A date, West Iran? North Mesopotamia?); WFC No. 361 (handled seal).

113



293

**Object:** black Serpentine, 23x21x7mm. Hemispheroid, irregular sub-round base, slightly truncated on one side of base. Perforated (5mm.). Christie's 1993: group 315 (Marcopoli Collection).

**Technique:** linear and wide, blunt cut with sharp drill and wide edged drill.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with triangle within one angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 292 above but with a more regular and symmetrical base layout.



294

**Object:** dark grey, black serpentine, 21x22.5x9mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Perforation (one end: 5mm.; other end: 3mm.) in center.

**Technique:** deep, even linear cut with medium size drill with thin, pointed end.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with small triangle within two angles in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, (North Iraq), West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for this developed version of the angle-filled cross motif on hemispheroids cf. Von der Osten 1957: Fig. 6, (Byblos, No. 1299), 6 (Alisar, No. 2398), 35; The Gorelick Collection 1975-6: No. 5 (with one drilled dot, attributed to Western Iran, Susa B, ca. 3300);

Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 30 (bought Aleppo); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 182.3, 183.6, 184.6, 186.1-5; Keel-Leu 1991: No. 19 (West Iran). For the motif on a large ridge handled seal with round, convex base cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 511 (Faruqabad, near Susa, later Ubaid period).



295

**Object:** dark red serpentine, 20x18x8mm. Gabled hemispheroid, sub-round base, with one straight side. Perforation (4mm.) on short axis. Broken on top of perforation

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with very thin, sharp end drill.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with two or three angles in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape in later Ubaid 3 and Ubaid 4 periods. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Tab. 3. Shape close to smaller hemispheroid with similar, but less developed base design WFC No. 289. For more regular, deeper cut seal with same base design cf. Ibid.: Abb. 34.7 (identical base shape, impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI or XI A, Gawra/early Uruk period); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 30 (hemispheroid, bought Aleppo); WFC No. 294 above. Design common also on convex base handled button seals from Susa A. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 24, 30 (less regular), 34, 39, 69 (deeper). For same design on round base seal from Crete cf. Von der Osten 1957: fig. 6.8 (Kreta, K66).



296

**Object:** mottled grey-green serpentine, 20.5x19x9mm. Hemispheroid, sub-round almost ovoid base, slightly concave on one side. Elongated, ovoid perforation (3x5mm.) in center.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with thick drill with pointed end.

**Description:** central line with short line or triangle in one angle in each corner and short line between one group of two corner angles.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (or early Gawra/early Uruk period), North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** design very close to WFC No. 153, but with deeper cut. For similar designs with central dividing line cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 263 (ovoid impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII?, later Ubaid period). For shape cf. especially Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 67 (Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid period).



297

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 18x18x10mm. Peaked hemispheroid with uneven back (almost low conoid), round base. Comparatively large ovoid perforation (3.5x5.5mm.) below rounded, bulging top. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with broad, flat drill with blunt edge; drilled dots with round end drill.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with drilled dot within angle in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq (or West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for identical or very similar designs cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 184.3 (low hemispheroid, identical design, Ubaid period), 185.7 (hemispheroid, same technique, design with two angles in quadrants); 208.5 (smaller button-shaped seal with convex base, same design, 4th millennium, Iran). The shape rarely occurs in the Ubaid or Uruk periods in South Iran. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 35-6. For gabled or peaked hemispheroids with the same design but without the drilled dots, cf. Buchanan 1981: Nos. 35-6.



298

**Object:** cream-white limestone, covered with thick brown encrustation, 26x24x9mm. Low, flattened hemispheroid, sub-round (almost ovoid) base. Small perforation (3x3.5mm.) not carried through or filled with patina and closed near one end. Much worn. More than one quarter of base design chipped and corroded.

**Technique:** linear cut with fairly wide drill.

**Description:** four parallel lines in two opposite corners with central lines joined as divider(?) and three angles in one

corner. Fourth corner obliterated.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape most common in later Ubaid period, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3, Nos. 515 (Tepe Gawra, later Ubaid period), 550 (Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). The original base design was either of the linear "point group mm<sup>2</sup>" or the "point group m" layout. Both layouts are common in later North Ubaid glyptic. Cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 236, 238 (impressions, Tepe Gawra, level XIII), 328 (impressions, Degirmentepe).



299

**Object:** dark grey-brownish limestone, 25x25x13.5mm. Sub-discoid with slightly rounded top, with very shallow groove in center of back; round base. Large perforation. Chipped on base. Much worn.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear cut with medium size drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** cross.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium (or early 3rd millennium), later Ubaid period (or Uruk period), North Syria, Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the transitory shape of this sub-discoid has strong ties with a variety of closed body seals whose origins go back to the Halaf period. Its closest affinities are with flattened hemispheroids which begin to appear in the later Ubaid period; with perforated mushroom-reels which are typical of the same period and with flat-top discoids which are most common in the Uruk period but which may originate in an earlier period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 257, Tab. 3. For close shapes cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 505, 513 (Tepe Gawra, level XIII, XII, later Ubaid period). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 149 (Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period). As the only base decoration the simple cross design is found mainly in Ubaid period glyptic and the glyptic of the later Uruk period. However cf. WFC No. 179. For examples on hemispheroids or close shapes cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 507 (flattened hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII, later Ubaid period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 408 (hemispheroid, Jamdet Nasr, Jamdet Nasr period); WFC Nos. 170, 265 (side A.).



300

**Object:** dark green-grey serpentine, 20x20x10mm. Irregular hemispheroid large rounded top, round base. Grooved above base. Large ovoid perforation holes (5x6mm.) below top (almost loop-handle) not meeting (or filled with hard mud).

115

**Technique:** linear drill work and fairly deep drilled hole with rounded end drill.

**Description:** semi-cross with central drilled depression (3mm.), radiating parallel strokes and many small drilled holes of various sizes near central hole and field.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid), Syria, North Iraq (or West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape an early form of the hemispheroid stamp seal. The design on the present seal is not that of the common, complete cross. Here, the fourth cross line is omitted. However, the radiating strokes in the "cross quadrants" do change angle in the missing quadrant. This incompleteness probably results from a quick, unprofessional hand. It may, however, also indicate a peripheral manufacturing place or an early date. For the cross motif with radiating strokes in cross formation cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 44 (lentoid with truncated sides, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period). For the motif without the central cross or within a frame cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 49 (hemispheroid with high base, same origin and period), 50 (pyramid with truncated top, same origin and period); WFC Nos. 217, 219 (with lists). For cross with similar deep central hole cf. WFC Nos. 54 (similar shape and same material), 269 (double cross with drilled dots), 301 below. For similar combinations of cruciform designs with parallel strokes and drilled dots cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 297:2 (loop-handled, Tell Judeideh, Amuq E[?] reused in Amuq H); Delaporte 1920: No. S.88b (button seal, from Susa), T.9 (button seal, Telos). For deep cut cross with four or five deep depressions in quadrants cf. Vollenweider 1983: No. 3 (low hemispheroid grooved above base, second half of 4th millennium).



301

**Object:** dark and lighter grey serpentine, 21x20x15mm. High hemispheroid, almost dome, round base, two faint grooves above base. Perforation (4.5x5mm.) below top.

**Technique:** very deep linear cut and fairly large, very deep drilled hole (8mm.; depth 4mm.) with thick, rounded drill. Rest of design less deeply cut with thinner linear drill.

**Description:** cross with central drilled hole within double square with many short radiating strokes.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North-West Iran, North Iraq (or Syria, South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** high hemispheroids such as the present seal are unknown before the Ubaid period. They appear also in the Uruk period. For similar shape cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 34 (Ubaid or later); WFC Nos. 305, 307. Small loop-handled seals and hemispheroids grooved above base with a central drilled hole within a cruciform base design are found throughout the Ubaid period. Cf. WFC Nos. 200, 165, 300 above, 302 below. For close bodied seals decorated with cross within square cf. WFC. Nos. 148-9, 196 (with lists). For very similar designs cf. Buchanan 1981: Nos. 24 ("button" seal, said to be from Tepe Giyan, Ubaid period, with lists), 32 (gable hemispheroid, early Ubaid period).

Similarly shaped seals grooved around base occur also among the "Horse Group" Iron Age seals from North Syria. However, these later seals are usually more truncated or conoidal in shape and are engraved with animal motifs in a distinctive style. Cf. Keel-Leu 1991: No. 74 (with lists); Buchanan/Moorey 1988: Nos. 158-9, 165.



### 302

**Object:** grey serpentine, 28x28x12mm. Hemispheroid, round base, grooved around base. Large sub-ovoid perforation ((5x7mm.) slightly offcenter.

**Technique:** deep and shallower linear cut with two different drills; central drilled dot with round edged drill.

**Description:** irregular radiating central design. Seven radiating lines unevenly spaced reaching central drilled hole. Diagonal lines crossing three of above seven lines forming open-ended triangle with additional strokes and lines.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid period), North Iraq (or North Syria - South-East Anatolia, South-West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape dates from the early Ubaid period at the earliest. For similar design with central drilled dot cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 203 (loop-handled, round base, Arpatchiya, Halaf period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 30 (loop-handle, ovoid base, Tepe Gawra, level XIII-Well, beginning of later Ubaid period); WFC No. 165. For similar irregular linear designs without the central drilled dot, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 330, 342 (impressions, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period), 445 (round impression, less regular and with fewer lines, Susa A).



### 303

**Object:** black serpentine with red spots, 23x22x10mm. Low hemispheroid with slightly triangular wide section profile (close to round top gable pearl), round base, slightly truncated on sides. Perforation (5x4.5mm.) with one end reaching base, on long axis.

**Technique:** deep, sharp edged drill work.

**Description:** "star" partially within semi-triangle, additional strokes and short curved lines.

**Date/origin:** end of 5th-early 4th millennium, later Chalcolithic, end of early Ubaid/later Ubaid periods, North-East Syria, -South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and size date this seal to the ending early Ubaid/later Ubaid periods. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3. The base design continues a Halaf-early Ubaid compositional layout. An almost identical design occurs on a sub-round discoid from the Halaf period, cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 311 (Chagar Bazar). Similar irregular designs occur also in the Ubaid and early Uruk periods. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 99, 103-4, 113 (hemispheroids, "violin"-shaped oval bases, Susa A); WFC Nos. 165, 302 above.



### 304

**Object:** black-dark gray serpentine, 19x21x7mm. Hemispheroid, round base truncated below perforation holes. Elongated, ovoid perforation (3.5x5mm.). Christie's 1993: group 315 (Marcopoli Collection).

**Technique:** fairly deep curved linear cut with sharp and blunt drills; drilled dot with round edged drill; cut and polished around perforation holes (cut and hole: 8mm.).

**Description:** central drilled dot with stroke, arched line, ovoid or flower bud within uneven arcs.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Iraq, South-West Iran, Luristan (or Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** design is of "point group 4mm" layout with curved arcs and filling motifs. This type of "point group 4mm" layout is typical of the later Ubaid period. For similar curved line design without the central drilled dot cf. Von Wickede 1990: 262, Nos. 242 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 442 (large round impression, Susa A). For similar designs with the central

drilled dot cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 187.1, 2 (negative cut, with bibliography for No. 187.1 and three similar seals from Luristan); WFC No. 220.



305

**Object:** black serpentine, 15.5x14.5x12mm. High hemispheroid (or low conoid), oval base. Perforated (3.5mm.) near base. Two grooves above base between perforation holes.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with sharp edged drill; wider blunt drill for "dots".

**Description:** angle-filled uneven cross with drilled dots of different size or flower bud in each quadrant.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or early Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, North Iraq, South-West Iran (Susa B horizon).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape dates this piece to the Ubaid 3 period at the earliest. For close shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 41.4 (Tepe Gawra, level XI A, Gawra/early Uruk period); WFC Nos. 301, 307 (with lists of grooved hemispheroids). For the design cf. ibid.: No. 206 (loop-handled seal with round base, Ras Shamra, Halaf period); Amiet 1972: No. 248 (hemispheroid, very similar technique, Susa B); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 33 (hemispheroid, bought North Syria). For similar designs, however with more lines and/or dots, cf. also Amiet 1972: No. 59 (Susa A); Buchanan 1981: No. 26 (disc with high sides cut into flat base, convex base, six-part, dot filled, said to be from Tepe Giyan).



306

**Object:** black serpentine, 15x12x12mm. Sub-bell-shaped conoid, with short sloping lower back, high conoid back with flattop, oval base. Perforation (4mm.) below top.

**Technique:** fairly deep, even linear cut with sharp edged drill and deep drilled dots (end depressions: 2mm. or 2.5mm.; central depression: 3mm.; depth: 2.5mm.) with rounded drill.

**Description:** line-filled cross formed by thin lines and drilled dot at ends with central drilled dot. Quadrants filled with many parallel radiating lines.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, later Chalcolithic, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria-Anatolia, West Iran (Tepe Giyan horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** bell shaped conoids begin to appear in the Gawra/early Uruk period and continue to occur sporadically in the early Bronze Age mainly in Anatolia. In the latter period they are usually made from burned clay and tend to have a narrower top and a more pronounced bell-shape than the present seal. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 254-5, Tab. 3, Abb. 22, No. 404. The present conoid could be an earlier (Ubaid) shape which developed from the narrower and thinner Halaf/early Ubaid periods conoids. Cf. WFC No. 177. For close shape with very similar design and engraving technique cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 17 (convex base, swastika like design with divider and four drillings, said to be from Tepe Giyan, later Ubaid period). The design is most common on Halaf and early Ubaid pieces. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 32.1 (pendant, Tepe Gawra, level XVI, early Ubaid period); WFC No. 188. According to Von Wickede (1990: 268) drilled holes on their own or in connection with lines occur again only during the end of the later Ubaid period. For later Chalcolithic examples cf. WFC No. 307 below.



307

**Object:** white, pink, red-brown marble, 29x27x18.5mm. Very high hemispheroid, almost conoid; irregular round base, almost ovoid; two deep grooves above base. Large perforation (6x8mm.: pear-shaped on one side and ovoid shaped on other side) near top and reaching top to form small notches on top sides, on long axis. Cracked on back.

**Technique:** large (side holes: 4mm.; central hole: 4.5x5mm.) deep (4mm.) drilled holes and perforation with round drill with narrower round end (metal "rotating" drill?), linear cut with medium size drills with pointed end.

**Description:** three drilled holes in one line in center, four irregular quadrants filled with parallel diagonal lines in side quadrants and parallel straight lines in central quadrants.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, later Chalcolithic, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria-Anatolia, West Iran (Tepe Giyan horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape typical of later Ubaid and Uruk periods glyptic. For slightly smaller hemispheroid of identical shape decorated on base with linear design and deeper central drilled dot cf. WFC No. 301. The symmetrical rotating "point group 4" layout or variations of it are a common feature of later Ubaid glyptic. These layouts continue to occur until the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 261. For a symmetrical linear rotating layout with central drilled dot on later Chalcolithic hemispheroids or related shapes cf. ibid.: Nos. 527 (identical layout with one

drilled dot, Susa), 528 (Habuba Kabira). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 17 (said to be from Tepe Giyan, with lists from Giyan) and WFC No. 306 above.

118



308

**Object:** light grey, cream, brown marble, 18x18x8.5mm. Flattened sub-hemispheroid with half-circular back profile, sub-circular base (close to curved edged rhomboid pearl with truncated short sides), slightly convex base. Large horizontal ovoid perforation (one end: 6x4mm; other end: 7x6mm.), on long axis. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** fairly deep cut with thick, blunt drill with narrowed edge.

**Description:** central line within rhomboid with radiating strokes on edge (eye?).

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq or West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. The "eye" motif which occurs throughout the Ubaid period usually on pearl shaped seals, appears in the later North Ubaid period in a more symmetrical layout than in the earlier Ubaid period. Cf. Ibid.: Abb. 32.9 (Tepe Gawra, level XV, early Ubaid), Nos. 495 (Tell Abu Husaini, later Ubaid period), 498 (Tulul at-Talatat, later Ubaid period), 499 (Tepe Gawra, later Ubaid period), 541 (Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period).



309

**Object:** light cream, yellowish baked clay, 24.5x22x7.5mm. Low, flattened sub-hemispheroid, ovoid base. Elongated perforation (4x5mm.) near top, on short axis. Chipped above one perforation hole.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with rounded implement with very thin, pointed end.

**Description:** central divider with parallel lines on one side with one diagonal line near end and diagonal lines on other side of divider line forming few diagonals near edge.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, North Iraq, West Iran (Luristan).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No.

298, but with perforation holes placed nearer top. Design is a variation of "point group 1" layout which in itself is in close proximity to "plane group pma2" layout. For similar linear designs cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abbs. 7, 39.5 (hemispheroid, fewer lines, Hakalan and Dum Gar Parcina, Luristan, later Ubaid period), No. 510 (lentoid, Tepe Gawra, later Ubaid period).



310

**Object:** black, dark grey serpentine, 22.5x22x11.5mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Perforated (4.5x5mm.) near base.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with rounded broad and narrow drills (negative cut, design in relief?).

**Description:** diagonal lines to center joined to two angles on top and to one angle below with two small diagonal lines in opposite direction.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, late Ubaid period or Gawra period, Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** an emphasis on the central axis, as in the present "point group m" base design, is a most common feature for later Ubaid period base layouts. This emphasis is continued to be in use in the North during the Gawra period. Usually this design is depicted with an engraved central divider. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 262, Nos. 237a, 237b (impressions, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 263 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII? later Ubaid period), 411 (impression, Arpatchiya, Gawra period). For hemispheroids with broader negative(?) animal designs cf. Buchanan 1981: Nos. 83 (North Mesopotamia, 4th millennium), 84 (bought Baghdad, North Mesopotamia, 4th millennium). Cf. also linear designs in a broader cut on hemispheroids in Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 380:5 (less regular linear design, Amuq Gor H).



311

**Object:** greenish grey serpentine, 25x24.5x12mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Perforation (5x6mm.) in center. Chipped on base and broken near one perforation hole.

**Technique:** deep circular cut with rounded drill (negative cut?).

**Description:** three concentric circles (in impression: three concentric circles with central dot).

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium (or later 4th millennium), Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid period [or Gawra/early Uruk period]), South-West Anatolia, Syria, North-East Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the shape of this large hemispheroid dates it to the early Ubaid period at the earliest. However, hemispheroids of this size are more common in later Ubaid-Uruk periods glyptic. The spiral motif is found as base decoration on Neolithic "Pintaderas" from Catal Hayuk. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 24.10. The pure concentric circle design and the spiral design occur on a large number of late Neolithic handled or conoidal clay seals from South-East European sites. Cf. Makkay 1984: Figs. XX-XXI. However, the pure concentric circle motif is a comparatively rare design in Near Eastern stone seals and is not found on excavated hemispheroids. As a seal decoration the motif is very ancient. It is found already on Neolithic conoidal seals and other stamp-seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 70, No. 14 (limestone stamp-seal, Tell al-Kaum - South Syria, Aceramic Neolithic), Abb. 20.1 (clay [decorative?] seal, Jarmo - Zagros mountains, Neolithic). The same basic motif occurs again, mainly with additional strokes, on Ubaid handled seals of various shapes, usually made of clay, which come from different sites and range over a large area in the North (from Anatolia to North-East Iran) and reaches further areas (such as Palestine in the Uruk periods). Cf. Schmidt 1937: Nos. H2954 (baked clay "pinched" hemispheroid, concentric circles filled with small strokes, Hissar I), H4645 (stalk handle above square base, Hissar IC), H3776 (baked clay short handle on sloping back, round base, rectangular stroke-filled concentric circles, Hissar IIA or B), H1864 (Hissar IIIA); Özgür 1968: No. 6 (thick loop handle, Karum Kanish, East Anatolia, found in Old Hittite Level Ib, dated to 4th-3rd millennium); Ben-Tor 1990: 81-82, fig. 4 (clay, low loop handle, round base, same design but with less perfect circles, Tell Grar, probably second half of 4th millennium or later). On hemispheroids, the nearest designs to that of the pure concentric circles design from the Ubaid periods or in later prehistoric glyptic are the "sunburst pattern" and the spiral design. For examples of the "sunburst pattern" cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 335, 336 (impressions, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 31 (conoid, Tepe Gawra, level XIII-Well, Ubaid II period); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 187.4, 6 (5th-4th millennium) For stamp seals decorated on base with the spiral design cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 41 (low oval hemispheroid, probably in relief, Ubaid or later, with lists); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 133 (large low gable hemispheroid, bought Jebel Abu Galgal, south of Membj, later 4th millennium); Erlenmeyer, Nos. 205.1-5 (hemispheroids, South West Iran, 4th millennium, with lists from Tepe Giyan and Susa A). Cf. also Ben-Tor 1990: Nos. 1 (low loop conoidal, Tell Grar, South Palestine, 4th millennium).



312

**Object:** black serpentine, 27x25x12mm. Ovoid pearl seal with round back, round side profile (close to hemispheroid), ovoid base. Perforation (3.5mm.) on long axis above base, off center. Second perforation (3mm.) next to first perforation, on one side only, not reaching other end.

**Technique:** deep curved cut, with angular drill with pointed edge (negative cut?).

**Description:** four lines (one slightly curved) within oval frame (eye?) with additional arch inside frame on one side.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq (or South-West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape dates the piece either to the Ubaid periods or to the Uruk periods. For the "eye" motif on later Ubaid seals cf. WFC No. 308. For the ovoid motif as part of a more complex design or for the ovoid motif within frame displayed in more symmetric layouts on later Ubaid period round or ovoid bases cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 239 (ovoid impression, Tepe Gawra, level XIII), 265 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII), 526 (hemispheroid, Susa A), 529 (flattened hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XI).



313

**Object:** black serpentine, 24x27x10mm. Flattened hemispheroid, oval base truncated below perforation holes. Perforated (3.5x4mm.) near base, on short axis. Chipped on base near edge. Christies's 1993: group 315 (Marcopoli Collection).

**Technique:** fairly deep linear and curved cut with thin and wider drills with pointed ends.

**Description:** central line cutting across two irregular open-ended ovoids (close to rhomboids) within ovoid frame formed by arcs. Diagonal strokes in center on sides of central line.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia, (or South-West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC No. 312 above. For design with ovoids on sides of central divider cf. also Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 241 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 541 (Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). For close geometric designs with central divider and rhomboid frames from North Syria, North Israel cf. Ben-Tor 1990: 80-86, fig. 6a (impressions on clay made by a wooden stamp seal?, Tell Grar, middle or end of 4th millennium, Chalcolithic), 11 (Gilat, small cylinder seal, probably originated in Syria, 4th millennium, Chalcolithic).



314

**Object:** dark grey-green serpentine, 27.5x26x14mm. Large, high dome hemispheroid, uneven round base truncated on one side. Small elongated perforation near top. Cracked on back and glued with modern glue.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with fine and slightly broader drills with blunt, angular and pointed edges and small drilled dots and ovals with rounded edged drill.

**Description:** central line with short parallel lines on sides. Ovoid, connected sub-rounded dots (small flowers?) within curved line (snake?) and chevron off one side of central line and drilled dots with strokes within divided sub-triangle off other side.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Uruk periods, North Syria, Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** large hemispheroids occur already in the Ubaid period but hemispheroids of this size with high dome are most common in the later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3, No. 568 (shape, Tepe Gawra, later Chalcolithic era); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: 26-7; Erlenmeyer 1989: 31; Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 422 (Nuzi [Yorgan Tepe], Jamdet Nasr period). The present design with its emphasis on the central axis and its curved lines derives from the more rigid bilateral symmetrical "point group m" layout typical of later Ubaid period. This layout is occasionally continued in Northern glyptic also in the early Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 263, Nos. 495, 496 (Tell Abu Husaini), 501 (Tepe Gawra, level XIA). However, cf. also Amiet 1972: Nos. 247 (hemispheroid, more rigid layout, Susa B). The combined linear and linked drilled-gouged engraving technique are common stylistic traits of later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period glyptic.



315

**Object:** black serpentine, 16.5x16.5x8.5mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Small perforation (2.5mm.) near top.

**Technique:** deep linear, curved and angular cut with rounded and angular drill with pointed ends.

**Description:** cross with arched "hands" ending in triangles pointing to center and ending in small, curved line. Swastika formed from bull heads(?)

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia (or West Iran, Giyan horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the above symmetrical rotating "point group 4mm" design is most typical of later Ubaid glyptic. The swastika motif occurs already in the early Ubaid period but then in a more angular, thinner linear drilling technique. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 261, Nos. 212 (pendant, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period), 242 (round impression, same layout, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period). The bull heads motif is unknown in Ubaid 3 glyptic. It occurs frequently in later North Ubaid glyptic, usually in "point group mm2" layout. It is also a common motif in Gawra/early Uruk glyptic, where it is arranged mainly in "band group pma2" layout but also in rotating symmetrical layouts including "point group mm2" layout. The arrangement of bull heads in rotating symmetry "point group 4mm" design first appears in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: 265, note 26, No. 598 (disc, with no trace of a swastika-like layout, Tell Brak, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period). For bull heads on hemispheroids cf. WFC Nos. 355-6, 358 (with lists). For the swastika motif cf. Delaporte 1920: Nos. S.94 (same shape and size, similar design, more angular, careless and without triangular finials, from Susa), G.3 (clay hemispheroid, swastika within circle with radiating strokes, from Turkey, near Smyrna); Buchanan 1981: No. 24 (not the piece itself but bibliography; Giyan, pl. 38.31 from 11 m.60); Von Wickede 1990: No. 212 (seal-pendant, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period); Amorai-Stark 1993: SBF No. 3 (carinated hemispheroid). The exact design of the present hemispheroid is not found on excavated seals.

#### 4. Small close bodied seals of various shapes and a stem handle seal with drilled dots designs

**Drilled dots**, that is drilled depressions, as the only, or as the main base design with few additional strokes or with one line usually decorate small hemispheroids, gabled pearls or other small close bodied seals with round or ovoid bases. They are less frequent on large hemispheroids. However, in

the later Uruk/"Jamdet-Nasr" period or slightly before, they appear also on large hemispheroids, conoids and tabloids. The WFC has 17 small pearls, hemispheroids and related shapes and 5 more pieces with drilled dots as their only base decoration. These stamp seals range from the Halaf period to the later Uruk period or slightly later. They are treated here as an individual group united by its base design and not by its shape for thus it is easier to follow the continuation or preference of the number of drilled dots and their drilling technique in each glyptic period. This is important, since it is rare to come across such a large number of pieces depicting drilled dots as the only base design or with few additional strokes from one site or in one collection. The most frequent number of drilled depressions on the WFC small hemispheroids are four (WFC Nos. 319-21, 326); eleven (WFC Nos. 335, 333); seven (WFC Nos. 316, 325) and nine (WFC Nos. 317, 330). The following number of dots occur only once: three (WFC No. 318); five (WFC No. 327); eight (WFC No. 329); ten (WFC No. 334); six (WFC No. 328); fifteen (WFC No. 323) and nineteen or twenty (WFC No. 324). Twenty drilled dots arranged in circles appear on a carinated hemispheroid (WFC No. 332), four dots within arches also decorate a small round base low ridge handle seal (WFC No. 159) and eleven dots occur also on a slightly convex ovoid, stem handle baked clay seal (WFC No. 335). In the Halaf and early Ubaid periods drilled dots occur also on pendant-seals. During the later Uruk/"Jamdet-Nasr" period drilled depressions as the only base motif become a very common motif. In that late period they occur especially on the bases of zoomorphic amulet-seals but are found also on a comparatively large number of tabloids, large hemispheroids and other shapes. The WFC has no example of the former. The exact meaning of the dot design, of the different number of drilled dots and their layouts are not clear. Various interpretations have been suggested. For example that the dots denote distinctive signs or early computation "numbers" "Research in the last few years has shown that an early form of accounting seems to have existed throughout the Ancient Near East... numerals were represented by little spheres." (Collon 1993: 13, note 1). Cf. also Holmes-Fredericq, 1970: 87, notes 3-6. However, this conclusion is not unequivocal in regard to pre-Uruk periods and it does not explain the preference of certain numbers of depressions on prehistoric stamp seals.



316

**Object:** black-dark grey-greenish Serpentine, 16.5x14x11mm. Low, sub-conoid with low loop-handle "growing" from sloping back, sub-circular flat base. Large handle perforation (5mm.).

**Technique:** fairly deep (2mm.) drilled dots (2mm. or 3mm.) with round end drill and very shallow linear strokes with very thin drill; large handle perforation on back from both sides.

**Description:** seven drilled dots with hatched edge. Arrangement of dots can be "read" as: line (four dots) parallel to triangle (three dots); or as two groups of three dots with one dot between; or as circle (five dots) with two dots. Few, short strokes on part of edge.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium or first half of 4th millennium, Halaf or Ubaid period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq (or Lebanon).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape most common in later Halaf period and early Ubaid period. In the later Ubaid period seals of this shape with drilled dots as their only base decoration continued to be manufactured only in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and South-East Anatolia. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 254, Abb. 43.2 (central dot within circle of six drilled dots, Byblos, later Ubaid period). For the motif on Halaf or early Ubaid periods seals cf. WFC No. 328. The ornamental edge strokes motif surrounding motifs other than drilled dots, is found also in the later Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede ibid.: Nos. 264 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII?), 495, 496 (pearl seal and heart shaped seal-amulet, Tell Abu Husaini), 512 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra). The drilled dot design with few, faint strokes occurs also in the later Chalcolithic era. Cf. also Amiet 1972: No. 89 (hemispheroid pearl, violin-shaped base, three or four small drilled dots with three hatched lines on edge, Susa B, later Chalcolithic era); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 387-80, fig. 297.2 (small loop-handle seal with slightly convex sub-circular base, ten drilled holes forming a "cross" with radiating lines. Found in Amuq Phase H, probably manufactured in Ubaid period and reused[?] in Phase H). For the nearest parallel to the number and layout of the drilled dot design on the present sub-conoid cf. Holmes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 174 (small hemispheroid, similar sub-circular base, Tepe Gawra, level X, later Chalcolithic era).



317

**Object:** mottled black-grey serpentine, 16.5x14x11mm. Sub-conoidal (close to bell-shape) with uneven conoidal back turned to large, wide loop-handle (close to lug handle) on one side, truncated on one perforation side; slightly convex, sub-oval base with wide angular notch on one wider side below truncated back side. Perforation (4.5mm.) on short axis. Broken near one end of perforation.

**Technique:** shallow (1mm.) small drilled dots (1mm. or 2mm.) with round drill and shallow linear strokes with small round drill.

**Description:** nine drilled dots in center arranged on sides of curved central line, several radiating strokes of different lengths and angles on edge.

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf or early Ubaid period, Syria, North Iraq (or Lebanon).

**Discussion/comparanda:** seals with wide loop or lug

handles originate in the Hassuna and Samarra period. However, in that period their bases are flat and the decoration is never that of drilled dots. Similar loop or lug handles occur frequently on small Halaf period seals or early Ubaid period seals. Convex bases begin to appear in these periods. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 177, 178 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period), 228 (Mersin, early Ubaid period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 101:2 (First Mixed Range, probably from Halaf or early Ubaid period). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 7 (bought north coast of Syria, 6th millennium). For a "bell" shaped seal dated to the Ubaid period cf. WFC No. 306. A drilled dot design surrounded by a pronounced border of radiating strokes or radiating strokes in various angles is a most popular motif on Halaf and early Ubaid period pendants. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 105 (two small dots similar to present dots, Arpatchiya, Halaf period), 110 (four small dots of same type as present dots and few strokes, Yarimtepe II, Halaf period), 129 (eight encircled drilled dots in similar arrangement to present seal and pronounced edge strokes, Tepe Gawra, Halaf period), 207 (ridge handle button seal with round convex base, encircled drilled dots of various sizes and pronounced stroke border of different sizes and angles), Abb. 32.1 (five drilled dots of same type as present piece and stroke border, Tepe Gawra, level XVI, early Ubaid period). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 13 (pyramidal back, pierced through; slightly convex face; eighteen drilled holes within a hatched border, bought North Syria). For nine drilled dots arranged in an ovoid circle of eight small drilled dots with one off center on a 2nd millennium(?) conoid cf. Keel-Leu 1990: 382, No. 84 (Tell es-Safi [Gat?], Israel, unstratified context). For drilled dots design with line cf. WFC No. 322.



318

**Object:** buff limestone, 13x10x7mm. Irregular and uneven sub-pyramidal-conoidal seal with one slanting back side and straight back side ending in curved top contour and irregular, slanting, cuttop; sub-ovoid base truncated on both long sides with round and angular base corners. Perforation (2.5x3.5mm.) near top on short axis. Broken above part of perforation and chipped(?) on base.

**Technique:** shallow (1mm.) drilled dots (2mm.) and triangular depression (2.5mm.) with round edged implement.

**Description:** three drilled depressions in triangular arrangement placed on one side of base. Two depressions are drilled dots, the third, on edge - triangular shaped drill (or chipp). Stylized "face with eyes and mouth"?

**Date/origin:** 5th millennium, Halaf period or early Ubaid period, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for close shapes with similar small perforations near top cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 173, 174 (Arpatchiya, Halaf period). No excavated seal of

identical shape has come to light from the early Ubaid period. However, the present piece could be dated also to this period since Halaf period shapes and designs continue well into the early Ubaid period and the transitional shape of the present piece is in line with this development. Furthermore, the use of drilled dots is a common feature of early Ubaid zoomorphic depictions and geometric designs. For a triangular layout of three encircled dots cf. ibid.: No. 103 (pendant, Arpatchiya, Halaf period). In both the Halaf and the early Ubaid periods triangles occur as part of various linear geometric layouts. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 205 (round based seal with "lug" handle, Ras-Shamra, Halaf period), 217 (rhomboid pearl impression, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period). Triangles as the only decorative motif arranged in symmetrical rows are a typical motif of the later Ubaid and early Gawra periods. Cf. ibid.: No. 290, 331, 491, 492.



319

**Object:** black serpentine, 16x12x11 mm. Irregular, sub-hemispheroid close to sub-conoid (or dome) with high rounded back contours truncated on one side and slanting on other side to form wide sub-loop handle; semi-circular base, unevenly cut on one side. Perforation (4x5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** drilled depressions (1.5mm. deep; 1.5mm. and 3mm.) with round edged drills of two sizes.

**Description:** four drilled dots arranged in pairs in semi-square formation (three larger dots on field and smaller dot near edge).

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid period), Syria, North Iraq or Lebanon.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the irregular, transitional shape of the present seal probably dates it to the Ubaid period or to the early Uruk period at the latest. The design with four drilled depressions occurs from the Halaf period onwards. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: 26, Fig. VII, e, fig. 299 ("button" seal, four encircled drilled holes, T.H.5, Tell Halaf, Halaf period); Von Wickede 1990: 209 (round seal with lug handle, cross with drilled dot in quadrants, Ras Shamra, Halaf period). As the only base design, four drilled depressions arranged in the same or similar layout to that of the present seal's layout occur on excavated seals mainly in the early Ubaid period and the later Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: No. 214 (gable pearl, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 380:4 (small hemispheroid, extrusive in Post-Phase J context, Amuq); Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 413 (hemispheroid pearl, Nuzi, Jamdet Nasr period); Amiet 1972: Nos. 311 (hemispheroid pearl, Susa C), 333 (hemispheroid, four dots arranged in two groups, Susa C), 337, (irregular hemispheroid, Susa C), 397, 398 (small tabloids, Susa C). However, due to the continued use of

drilled dots in various numbers as the only base design on a variety of close bodied seals from later Ubaid period Byblos, an origin in that area and date cannot be excluded. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 43.1-4. The square arrangement of four dots probably carries a symbolic meaning such as an allusion to the four corners of the earth, the four winds etc.



320

**Object:** mottled black serpentine, 10x9.5x5mm. Carinated hemispheroid pearl with ridge in center of back, sub-gable perforation side profile (close to gable pearl); ovoid base truncated on perforation sides. Perforation (2.5mm.) slightly off center, on long axis.

**Technique:** very shallow (0.5mm.) drilled dots (2mm.) with round edged drill.

**Description:** four drilled dots arranged in square formation.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid period), Syria, North Iraq or Lebanon.

**Discussion/comparanda:** typical shape for Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3. Base design same as WFC No. 319 above.



321

**Object:** cream-yellowish bone, 12x8.5x6mm. Ovoid with ovoid back and hemispheroid perforation side profile, ovoid base truncated on both long sides. Elongated ovoid perforation (2x4mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** three fairly deep (2mm.) drilled dots (2mm. or 3mm.) and one shallow (0.5mm.) drilled dot (2mm.) with fairly large round drill with round edge.

**Description:** four drilled dots: three larger dots arranged in triangle formation, one dot on long axis, below near edge. Arrangement of central depressions resembles stylized "face."

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 5th-early 4th millennium, end of Halaf period or Ubaid periods (probably early Ubaid period or beginning of later Ubaid period), Syria, Lebanon, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** transitional shape between hemispheroid pearl and hemispheroid with truncated base. For shape and size cf. WFC No. 201. Shape dates this piece to the late Halaf or early Ubaid period (or to the transitional

period between early Ubaid and later Ubaid period). Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. Shape and center of base design are close to WFC No. 318. Design is identical to WFC No. 319, material-to WFC No. 326. For a similar base arrangement of drilled dots cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 181 (hare-shaped seal, faience, Tell Brak, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period).

123

Bone as seal material occurs already in the Ubaid and early Uruk periods. The use of bone as glyptic material increases during the later Uruk period especially for animal shaped seal-amulets. For examples from Tepe Gawara cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Figs. 56 (gable, later Ubaid period), 135 (discoid, early Uruk period), 157 (irregular gable pearl, early Uruk Period), 211 (tabloid, later Uruk/"Jamdet-Nasr" period) and from Tell Brak cf. ibid.: Fig. 335 (gazelle-shaped seal-amulet, later Uruk/"Jamdet-Nasr" period); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 170, 171, 175, 178 (hare-shaped bone seal-amulets, four blobs on base ...Brak G87; from 'Grey Brick Stratum'); Delaporte 1920: Pl. 61, A.11, Fig. 5a-b (small reclining calf-shaped seal-amulet, four drilled dots on base in similar arrangement to WFC No. 326, but more closely spaced, purchased, attributed to Sumer).



322

**Object:** red serpentine, 13x12x6mm. Irregular "gabled hemispheroid", sub-circular base truncated on one base side. Ovoid perforation (2.5x4mm.) on short axis on wider side of gabled top. Signs of original(?) perforation began on long axis on short side of gable top.

**Technique:** shallow (1mm.) drilled dots (1.5mm.) with round edged drills of various sizes; deep linear cut ending as thinner linear cut-drilled with medium size drill.

**Description:** line dividing base to two uneven fields. Five drilled dots on larger field (haphazard arrangement or irregular circular arrangement of four drilled dots with central dot[?]) and two drilled depressions near edge on other, smaller field.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably early Ubaid period), Syria, Lebanon, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** no exact parallel has been found. This piece was first conceived as a gabled pearl, for the original perforation was began on the long axis. However, since this perforation was drilled too close to base it was turned into the deep base line and then a secondary perforation was drilled on the wider back side, that is on short axis. Gabled pearls are characteristic of Ubaid period glyptic and such small gables are typical especially of the early Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. For similar transitional pieces with drilled dot designs cf. WFC Nos. 318, 321. For combination of drilled depressions and lines in various layouts on pendants cf. ibid.: Nos. 119 (Tepe Gawra, Halaf period), 120 (Tell Hasan, Halaf period), 215 (Tepe

Gawra, early Ubaid period). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 31 (flattened hemispheroid). For similar layout of drilled depressions without the line cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 174 (small hemispheroid, Tell Gawra, Gawra/early Uruk period).

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323

**Object:** black serpentine, 15x12x7mm., Sub-carinated hemispheroid (close to pyramidal seal with rounded back contours), sub-oval base truncated on one wide side. Comparatively large perforation (5mm.) incised on back, on short axis.

**Technique:** even drilling (1.5mm. deep; 1.5mm or 2mm.) with round edged drill.

**Description:** fifteen drilled dots. Central drilling encircled by four drillings in semi-rosette pattern placed within oval circle of ten drillings. The whole forming haphazard developed rosette pattern.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half or middle of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably end of period) or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, Lebanon or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to two other shapes typical of Ubaid period glyptic: carinated hemispheroid with truncated base sides (continued to be in use also during the Uruk periods) and small pyramidal seals with rectangular base. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. For a slightly larger pyramidal seal with a similar back shape cf. WFC No. 175 (Halaf period or Ubaid periods). A large number of drilled depressions arranged in multi-circular layout as the only base design occurs mainly from the end of the later Ubaid period and in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. *ibid.*: Abb. 43.1 (pyramid with cut top, ovoid base, Byblos, later Ubaid period), 3 (round base, low gable or carinated hemispheroid, Byblos, later Ubaid period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 58 (round based carinated or gable hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII=end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period). Many drilled depressions occur also on larger pearl seals of the later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period from Susa. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 272 (oval base, sixteen or more very small drilled dots, Susa C), 310 (ovoid base, Susa C); Delaporte 1920: Nos. S.84 (round base, thirteen drillings arranged in two circles with central hole), S.83 (hemispheroid, thirty seven drillings).



324

**Object:** grey limestone, 17x13x7mm., Low flattened top sub-hemispheroid, sub-ovoid base truncated on both sides. Perforation (3mm.) on back near base on short axis with secondary ancient piercing (2x3mm.) through central base reaching original perforation. Secondary base piercing probably occurred during manufacture as result of base design drilling reaching perforation above or as ancient break resulting from frequent use.

**Technique:** shallow (0.5mm or 1mm.) drilled dots (1mm. or 1.5mm. or 2mm.) with small round end drills of various sizes.

**Description:** nineteen (or twenty) drilled dots. Central drilling (or two if the piercing is included) within oval of seven drilled depressions encircled by oval of eleven drilled depressions, forming developed rosette pattern.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (probably end of period) or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, Lebanon or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to flattened hemispheroid originating in the later Ubaid period and found in glyptic use until the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. For motif cf. WFC No. 323 above. The number of depressions and their sizes correspond most closely to the Tepe Gawra seal. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 58.



325

**Object:** white opaque limestone with fine crystals, 17.5x14.5x7mm. Low ovoid with flattened hemispheroid perforation side, oval base truncated on long sides. Perforation (3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** very shallow (0.5mm.) drilled depressions (2mm. or 3mm.) with round edged drill.

**Description:** six dots or eight dots (two covered by crust) encircling central dot (or two dots).

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (probably end of period) or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, Lebanon or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape as WFC No. 324 above. Number of drilled dots and layout probably the same as WFC No. 328 but adjusted to ovoid base.



326

**Object:** yellowish-light brown bone, 13x12x5mm. Hemispheroid pearl with flattened top, semi-round base with angle notch on one side of base below perforation. Perforation (2x3mm.) reaching back on long axis.

**Technique:** shallow (1mm.) drilled dots (2mm.) with round edged drill.

**Description:** four dots evenly arranged in square formation

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-early 3rd millennium, Ubaid periods, or Uruk periods (probably Gawra/early Uruk period), Syria (Amuq, Phase F or G horizon), Lebanon, Iraq (or Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC Nos. 320 and 325 above, but both shape and design could also indicate an Uruk period date. For small flattened bone hemispheroid seals from Judeideh, with linear, dotted and animal decorated bases cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 193:8-10 (Amuq, Phase F, No. 10 - linear motif encircled by seven drilled dots), 256:13 (Amuq, Phase G). For a four drilled dot design cf. WFC No. 319 and especially *ibid.* fig. 380:4 (small hemispheroid, Amuq, extrusive in Post-Phase J context); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 413 (gabled pearl, Nuzi, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period). For material cf. WFC No. 321.



321

**Object:** cream-pink, light brown bone, 15x15.5x7mm. Hemispheroid with uneven circular base with wide angular notch below one perforation hole and truncated below other. Perforation (4x5mm.) slightly off center near base.

**Technique:** shallow (1mm.) drilled dots (2mm.) with round edged drill.

**Description:** five drilled dots unevenly spaced, arranged in circle.

**Date/origin:** 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Ubaid period or Uruk periods, Syria, Lebanon, Iran (Susiana?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for material cf. WFC Nos. 321, 326 above. Shape cannot in itself date the piece for it occurs over very long periods, that is from the early Ubaid period to the later Uruk period. However, hemispheroids of this shape and size with truncated and notched bases are most popular in the later Ubaid and the Gawra/early Uruk period. The base motif and layout are close to "point groups mm2 and 6mm" layouts. Both these layouts with drilled dots as their only base ornament are found on later Ubaid seals from Byblos. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 7, 43.2 (six drilled dots and central dot), 4 (four drilled dots and central dot). For an identical circular layout of five drilled depressions with no central dot on slightly larger hemispheroids from Susa C, cf. Amiet 1972: No. 331 (white marble), and possibly No. 329 (much worn). For five drilled dots of various sizes arranged

in a different layout, cf. *ibid.* No. 430 (bird-shaped amulet-seal, Susa C).



125

328

**Object:** mottled black serpentine, 15x15x9mm. Dome-hemispheroid, round base slightly truncated below perforation. Small perforation (2mm.) near base.

**Technique:** fairly deep (1.5mm or 2mm.) drilled dots (2mm.) with sub-round edged drill or sub-round, rugged edged drill.

**Description:** six drilled dots encircling one dot.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium-early 3rd millennium, later Ubaid period or Uruk period, Syria, Lebanon, North Iraq, or Susiana.

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape for later Ubaid and Uruk periods glyptic. For an identical "point group 6mm" layout of seven dots cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 43.2 (sub-gabled hemispheroid, Byblos, early Ubaid period); Amiet 1972: No. 275 (hemispheroid pearl, oval base, same layout in an imperfect arrangement, Susa B or C). Cf. also Delaporte 1920: S.81 (small hemispheroid, Susa, "Archaic period"); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 147, 148 (rosette hemispheroids, faience, Tell Brak, later Uruk period); Erlenmeyer 1989: 23, No. 187.4 (3rd on top row, hemispheroid of same shape, 5th-4th millennium). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 138 (sloping ridge handle seal with round base, same layout with six drilled dots, Tell Brak). For same dot design on top of hemispheroid cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Fig. 293:3, p. 388: "The upper surface of the seal is decorated with seven drill holes, four of which have bits of white filling (lead base) in them. The findspot given for this seal is ambiguous and may refer to either Phase G or Phase H."

Seven dots (or globes) arranged as six dots around a central depression, forming a kind of rosette is a common motif in Mitannian glyptic art. For seven dots in Mitannian and later periods, including other arrangements of seven dots, their meaning and use as astral symbols in historic periods cf. Black/Green 1992: 162.



329

**Object:** black serpentine, 13x11x6mm. Low ovoid with truncated hemispheroid perforation side, oval base truncated on long sides. Perforation (3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow (1mm.), fairly large drilled dots (2.5mm. or 3mm.) with round edged drill; cut and polished

ovoid around perforation hole (cut and hole: 7x5mm.).

**Description:** central drilled depression encircled by seven drilled dots forming rosette pattern.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, Lebanon, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** perforation technique close to WFC Nos. 212, 279, 304 and shape close to WFC Nos. 212, 325, 330. Base layout close to WFC Nos. 325, 328 (seven drilled holes) and to WFC No. 321 (nine drilled holes with small strokes). For a design of eight drilled depresions from Susa C, cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 290 (half-barrel pearl, truncated ovoid base, oval layout without central drilled dot), 338 (irregular large hemispheroid, eight drilled holes arranged in groups of three and two dots around edge).



330

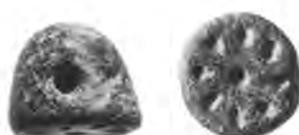
**Object:** grey-cream dense limestone with white and brown patina, 16x13x6.5mm. Low ovoid with flattened hemispheroid perforation side, oval base truncated on long sides. Perforation (one end: 2x3mm., other end: 3x3.5mm.) near base, on short axis.

**Technique:** very shallow (present depth: 0.5mm. but originally could be slightly deeper, that is 1mm. since base covered with patina) drilled depressions (1mm. or 1.5mm. or 2mm.) with round-edged drill.

**Description:** two dots within seven dot ovoid circle.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (probably end of period) or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, Lebanon or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape same as WFC Nos. 324-5. For same layout and number of drilled dots, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 297:1 (hemispheroid, Judeideh, Phase H); 379:1 (hemispheroid, Second Mixed Range, Judeideh, probably manufactured at Phase H but could belong to Phase F); Schmidt 1937: 118, Pl. XXVIII, No. H2883 ("button" seal with short ridge handle and round convex base, Hissar IIA). For smaller nine drilled dots in similar layout on a later conoid from Tell es-Safi, cf. Keel-Leu 1990: 382, No. 84.



331

**Object:** dark grey-green serpentine, 16.5x16x14mm.

Conoid with rounded convex top, round base. Perforation (4mm.) on lower half of back.

**Technique:** drilled depressions cut with ovoid and round edged implement and drill.

**Description:** central drilled dot (2mm. deep; 2.5mm.) encircled by eight drilled depressions with small linear endings (2x3mm) facing toward center, arranged in perfect circle forming sub-rosette design.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium (or 3rd millennium), later Ubaid, Gawra/early Uruk period (or early Bronze era), Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similar shape cf. WFC No. 305; Amiet 1972: No. 81 (hemispheroid with high convex top, six-ray wheel on base, Susa A); Buchanan 1981: No. 34 (high hemispheroid, angle-filled cross, Ubaid period or later). In its shape the present seal is also close to conoids from Early and Middle Bronze Anatolia and Syria-Palestine, some of which are variants of "bell-shaped" conoids and others are of more pronouncedly conoid shape. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 255, Abb. 22 (burned clay); Buchanan/Moorey 1988: Nos. 103-4, 109, 159). The rosette-like design arranged in a symmetrical layout with a central drilled dot is a most common motif in the Gawra/early Uruk period. However, no excavated seal has an identical design to that of the present piece. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 258 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII), 416 (round impressions, Arpatchiya, Gawra period). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No 26 (hemispheroid); Erlenmeyer 1989: 23, Nos. 189.1 (carinated hemispheroid), 2 (similar), 3-7 (similar). The drilling technique of the present seal with its small linear appendages has some affinity with the late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" gouging technique. However, the very perfect circle and layout are not typical of later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period drilled dot designs from Susiana and South Iraq.



332

**Object:** light brown-cream limestone, 18x17.5x8mm.

Irregular, low sub-conoid back with small, thin loop-handle "growing" from two sides of sloping back (close to pinched back), flat, round base. Handle perforation (3x4mm.) drilled on back below handle top.

**Technique:** beautifully executed, deep (2.5mm.) drillings (2.5mm. or 3mm.) with round implements with pointed and round end; perforation on back from both sides, seen from above.

**Description:** central drilling within seven drilled dot circle encircled by outer circle of twelve drillings. Forming developed radiating rosette design.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later

Ubaid period), Syria, Lebanon, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and perforation technique typical of later Halaf and early Ubaid periods. Similar shapes with drillings as the only base design were found occasionally in Syria-Palestine, South-East Anatolia and North Iraq in later Ubaid period levels. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 254-255, Tab. 3, Abb. 43.2 (circle of five drillings with central drill, Byblos, later Ubaid period), 3 (very low gable hemispheroid of similar shape, large number of drilled dots in haphazard sub-circular layout, Byblos, later Ubaid period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 58 (gable hemispheroid of similar shape, many drilling in sub-circular layout, Tepe Gawra, level XII). For close shapes cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 5 (criss-cross design, perhaps from Tell Basher to the south), 138 (thicker "handle", five drilling [one center], hatched edge, Tell Brak); Schmidt 1937: Pl. XV, No. H2954 (different handle, concentric circles filled with elongated drillings, Hissar I). See also examples in Ben-Tor 1990: 80-6.



333

**Object:** red serpentine, 13x12.5x7mm. Hemispheroid, uneven round base truncated on one side. Elongated ovoid perforation (2.5x4mm.).

**Technique:** fairly deep (1.5mm.) depressions of same size (2mm.) drilled with round edged drill.

**Description:** three drilled dots encircled by eight drilled dots.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, Lebanon or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape and similar layout of drilled dots cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 174 (Tepe Gawra, level X). For similar arrangement of twelve drilled dots cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 43.1 (conoid, Byblos, later Ubaid period) and for same number of drilled depressions, however in a much less organized layout and different cut cf. WFC No. 335.



334

**Object:** white limestone with brown patina, 17x16x7mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Elongated ovoid perforation (3x5mm.).

**Technique:** gouged depressions (1mm. deep; 2mm. or 3mm.) some overlapping and connected with round drills of

various sizes.

**Description:** two drilled holes unevenly encircled by eight drilled holes.

**Date/origin:** end of 4th-beginning of 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, North Syria, Iraq or Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** popular glyptic shape from the later Ubaid period to the late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period. However, drilling technique most typical of late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period. For similar perforation technique cf. WFC No. 333 above. For depressions in same drilling technique cf. Amiet 1972: No. 377 (hemispheroid, thirteen or more joined drillings, Susa C); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 274.1 (lion headed seal-amulet, ovoid base, eight drillings in uneven rosette pattern, late Uruk/Jamdet Nasr period). For similar material and base layout cf. WFC No. 330 (nine drilled dots) and for similar base layout cf. WFC No. 335 (eleven drilled holes).



335

**Object:** light-brown-cream with grey resulting from fire, baked clay, 20x18x17mm. "Stud or stalk" with sloping conoid back terminating in tall stem with flat, cut ovoid top; slightly convex, oval base. Not perforated.

**Technique:** deep and fairly deep (2mm. or 3mm.) round, ovoid and irregular depressions of various sizes (2x2.5mm. or 2x3mm. or 2.5x4mm. or 3x4mm. or 4.5mm.) incised with uneven edged implements; back roughly worked, "decorated" with large depression and long, broad, ovoid-like chevron; top linear cuts with very thin drill.

**Description:** top: irregular sub-criss-cross design: two lines in angle across center with few short strokes between and below from edge to center. Base: two central drilled holes (one very large), encircled by nine drilled depressions some with short linear endings.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th-3rd millennium, later Chalcolithic period or early Bronze period (later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or later), Anatolia, Syria-Palestine, North Iraq (or Iran or South-East Europe).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the number of drilled depressions of the present seal compares with WFC No. 322; their arrangement compares with WFC Nos. 330 and 334; and the present piece's oval shaped base decorated with drilled dots compares with WFC Nos. 319, 323-4, 329-30. The base gouging technique is the same as WFC No. 334. For similar simple, shallow, irregular linear design with few lines to that of the decoration on top of the present piece cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 50, 57, 117, 123 (hemispheroids, Susa A); Buchanan/ Moorey 1984: No. 144 (hemispheroid, Tell Brak); Schmidt 1937: Nos. H4522 (hemispheroid, Hissar IIA); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Fig. 191:8 (gable seal,

Amuq, Phase F). Shape has affinities with tall conoids from various periods but the nearest clay parallels are from the early Bronze Age. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 255, Abb. 22 ("bell shaped" clay conoid seals with slightly convex base, small perforation, rounded top, Kocumbeli, Anatolia, early Bronze period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 301 (clay, tall conoid with round top, unperforated, concentric circles on base, Tell Halaf, Halaf period); Amiet 1972: 7, Nos. 56 (bitumen, very convex base, round top, small piercing, cross with irregular diagonal lines and crossing lines, Susa A?); Schmidt 1937: 200, Nos. H2682 (baked clay, tall conoid, non perforated, angle-filled cross with chevrons, Hissar II), H2582 (baked clay, shape almost identical to ours but with flat base, non perforated, criss-cross design, Hissar II). A non perforated seal was found also in Clazomene, near the gulf of Smyrna, Turkey. Its proportions and shape are similar to those of our piece. However, its material is green serpentine and its sub-rectangular base is decorated with two linear, schematized "antelopes" tête-bêche within a square frame. Cf. Delaporte 1920: Pl. 60, No. G.7 (18x15x24mm., 5th-4th millennium). In its shape the Clazomene piece can represent a link connecting the present clay "seal" with the South-East European tradition. Since similarly shaped clay pieces, both to the present piece and the Clazomene seal, some decorated with drilled depressions occur from the Neolithic period onwards in South-East European sites. Some of these European pieces are unperforated, but most of them differ from the present item in their round top. For similar non perforated and perforated clay "seals" from South-East Europe cf. Makkay 1984: Nos. 10 (similar shape, smaller, unperforated, Azmaška mogila, Bulgaria, Early Neolithic), 145 (identical shape, unperforated, cut top and slightly convex base, central drilled depression surrounded by four small drilling connected to center by straight lines, Manolé-Razkopanitsa, Bulgaria, Ezero culture of the Balkan Early Bronze Age), 150 (similar shape, unperforated, Nea Nikomedia, Greek Macedonia, Early Neolithic), 159 (slightly shorter handle, flat base, round top, unperforated, seven drilled dots; central drilled hole encircled by deep drillings, Nea Nikomedea Greek Macedonia, Early Neolithic), 251 (very small drilled dots, unperforated, Tordos, Transalvania, Romania, Middle Neolithic).

## 5. Hemispheroids, ovoids, round and flat top pearls and small pyramid with linear zoomorphic base designs



336

**Object:** dark green-black serpentine, 30x28x7.5mm. Low hemispheroid with curved top gable back, ovoid base with angle notches below perforation cutting well into base and back. Rhomboid shaped perforation (5x7mm.) on short axis. Christie's 1993: group 315 (Marcopoli Collection).

**Technique:** fairly wide and deep cut with linear, triangular drill and blunt drill.

**Description:** gazelle to left, four legs with hoofs, body line not depicted, with two elongated ovals in front, horned head behind, small oval below and unidentified motif (two legged animal? object?) above.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, South-East Anatolia (or Syria, North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** design probably unfinished. Shape very close to WFC. No 234, but back a less pronounced gable. For similar motifs in same engraving style on identically shaped or close shaped large seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 545-6, 550 (Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). The filling motives are most common in the ending later Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: 262. For engraving style cf. also the more schematic depiction on WFC No. 395 (gable seal). For the motif, tripled and in a line formation cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 103 (large rectangular impression from gable, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Uruk period = Von Wickede, Abb. 33.5, Tepe Gawra, level XII-XI A?, later Ubaid or early Gawra/early Uruk periods); Buchanan 1981: No. 44 (low gable, North Syria, first half of 4th millennium).



337

**Object:** white opaque marble, 19x15.5x10mm. Ovoid, close to hemispheroid, oval base truncated on both sides below perforation. Comparatively large perforation (5mm.) on short axis, oblique to design.

**Technique:** linear cut with broad, flat, blunt drill for body and linear cut with thinner, sharp angular edge drill for legs, horn and linear motifs.

**Description:** moufflon facing right, one horn, elongated straight body, four fairly straight legs with short broad, angular hoofs, with three diagonal lines and drilled dot above.

**Date/origin:** first half (or middle) of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (or Gawra/early Uruk period), Syria, East Anatolia, North Iraq, (or Luristan).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC Nos. 252, 290, 338 most common in later Ubaid period, but continued to later Uruk period, especially in the North. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. Individual animals placed in "point group 1" layout with filling motifs are depicted from the early Ubaid to the later Uruk period. However, they are most common in the later Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: 264. For

examples of similar horned animals with elongated body and/or similar engraving style cf. ibid.: No. 545 (lentoid, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period); Amiet 1972: No. 187 (ovoid, goat with straight legs without hoofs, seals of Luristan from Susa A). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 192.3 (hemispheroid, moufflon); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 60 (hemispheroid, antelope with straight legs without hoofs, bought Deve Hüyük). See also Buchanan 1981: No. 75 (similar simplified style, hemispheroid, top flattened, lion oversnake, North Mesopotamia).



338

**Object:** white opaque marble with brown veins, 24.5x22.5x11.5mm. Ovoid, close to hemispheroid, oval base with one longer side truncated and other side with angular notch below perforation hole. Ovoid perforation (one end: 5x6mm.; other end: 5x7mm.) reaching base on one end, on short axis, oblique to design. Chipped near perforation hole and base.

**Technique:** linear cut with rounded and thin drills with pointed ends.

**Description:** wild ass facing left, with short upright ears, elongated body, four straight legs (hind legs slightly slanted), lowered tail.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 337 above, but larger. Schematic representation. For individual animals in "point group 1" layout cf. also WFC No. 337. For a similar animal with filling motifs on rhomboid pearl seal cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 546 (Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). For animals with a similarly thin, elongated body and straight legs cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 75 (hemispheroid, flattened top, lion oversnake); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 61 (hemispheroid, antelope, bought Aleppo). For similar engraving style of animals on hemispheroids perforated oblique to design cf. ibid.: Nos. 62 (bought Asia Minor), 63 (bought Karaj Oren, N. Syria). Cf. also the schematic "five-legged" cow or caprine in the upper register on the large handled square base seal in Eisenberg 1992: 15-6 (Tel-Kitan, west side of Jordan Valley, Palestine, early Bronze Age I).



339

**Object:** cream, light brown marble with brown veins, 22x19.5x13mm. High sub-gabled hemispheroid, ovoid base. Large perforation (6mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin and broader drills with sharp and blunt edges.

129

**Description:** unidentified design. Irregular diagonal and angular linear design (schematic bird, snake or quatrefoil?) with additional strokes within sub-rectangular frame.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or early Uruk period, South-East Anatolia or Western Iran (Susa A horizon.)

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape most typical of later Ubaid period but could also be later. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab 3. The design and engraving technique have affinities with later Ubaid irregular linear designs found on Susa A button-shaped and hemispheroid seals and on a lentoid from Degirmentepe. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 21, 52, 116, 123, 159 (Susa A); Von Wickede 1990: No. 544 (Degirmentepe).



340

**Object:** green-grey serpentine with patina or dirt on base, 27x24x10.5mm. Pearl with ovoid back (close to hemispheroid), round perforation side profile, uneven ovoid base. Perforation (5x6mm.) drilled on back, on long axis. Chipped on back.

**Technique:** unclear cut due to dirt or patina. Probably broad linear drill cut with few joined gouged holes cut with round drill. Elongated bodies.

**Description:** unclear motif. Two animals, one above the other, facing in opposite directions (?), with filling motif above. Or, two legged antelope facing left, with filling motif above.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Ubaid period or Uruk periods (probably Gawra/early Uruk period), North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the round top of the present seal is nearest to early and late Uruk period pearls, however, the location of the perforation high in the back and its technique are more typical of later Ubaid and early Uruk pearls. The shape is probably an example of the transitional form from the earlier pearls to the later Uruk period pearl seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3. For depictions of two legged animals, usually crouching and one above the other, cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 58 (low conoid, round base, Tepe Gawra, level XII, later Ubaid period), Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 419, 435, 437, 438 (impressions, Tell

Brak, Uruk period). The linear engraving style combined with drilled gouges of the present piece is more typical of later Uruk period glyptic than of later Ubaid period glyptic. Cf. WFC No. 351.

130



341

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 17x17x6mm. Flattened hemispheroid slightly carinated near perforation holes, round base. Comparatively large perforation (4mm.) reaching back. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin, sharp drill with pointed end and flat cut with broad, blunt drill.

**Description:** reclining stag with large diagonal hatched foliage spray between body and antlers, curved linear motifs below and chevron in front.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, end of late Ubaid period or more likely Gawra/early Uruk period ("Gawra style"), North Iraq (or North-East Syria or "Luristan").

**Discussion/comparanda:** the naturalistic depiction of this stag is typical of Gawra period, "Gawra style" glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 267. Depictions of caprids with large spray and filling motifs are most common in the later Ubaid period but are also found in the Gawra period. The naturalistic representation, reclining pose and engraving technique are more typical of the Gawra/early Uruk period in the North than the South. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Nos. 66 (gabled hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII), 70 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII = Von Wickede 1990: No. 568, later Chalcolithic period), 71 (impression Tepe Gawra, level XII), 97 (gabled hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Uruk period = Von Wickede 1990: No. 569, late Chalcolithic period), 318 (gable hemispheroid, same leg pose and similar engraving style, from Brak, Uruk period = Von Wickede 1990: No. 564, late Chalcolithic period). Cf. also Keel-Leu 1991: No. 5 (broader, shallower body, different leg pose, Luristan, Susa A/B horizon, with lists); Buchanan/ Moorey 1984: Nos. 44 (bought Aleppo), 45 (more linear body, compared to "Gawra XII" style), 46 (almost identical, "bought Sidon"); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 192.5.

**Object:** shining black serpentine with cream patina, 15x14x7mm. Low hemispheroid, round base. Large perforation (5mm.) reaching base and back. Broken on base below one perforation hole.

**Technique:** deep and shallower linear cut with fairly broad, blunt and sharp drills.

**Description:** reclining stag facing right with long, curved, feather-like antlers and short linear filling motifs below.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, end of late Ubaid period or more likely Gawra/early Uruk period ("Gawra style"), North Iraq (or North-East Syria or "Luristan").

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC No. 341 above. For pose and engraving style cf. especially Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 318 (gable hemispheroid, same leg pose and similar engraving style, Tell Brak, Uruk period = Von Wickede 1990: No. 564, late Chalcolithic period).



343

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 17x15x7mm. Gable hemispheroid (close to gabled pearl), sub-ovoid base with truncated sides. Large perforation (4x5mm.) cutting into back on one end, on long axis. Broken on base and chipped or left unpolished around one perforation hole.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin, sharp and rounded drills.

**Description:** gazelle or goat facing left, serpent or fish behind, horned head in front and small gouges below.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, end of late Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period North Iraq (or Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape occurs from later Ubaid period until later Uruk period, cf. Von Wickede, 1990: Tab. 3. The closest parallel is found on a small round impression from Tepe Gawra, level XII, cf. *ibid.*, No. 256 (Tepe Gawra, level XII). However, cf. also *ibid.*, Nos. 266 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII?), 570 (Tepe Gawra, XI A, late Chalcolithic period). For a more static three legged horned animals depicted in a thinner linear engraving style cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 253:9 (gable, Amuq G), 10 (loop-handled, round base, Amuq G). Cf. also WFC No. 252.



342



344

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 13x12.5x6mm. Low carinated hemispheroid, (close to pearl), uneven round base. Perforation (3mm.), on long axis. Worn.

**Technique:** shallow thread-like incisions and linear cut indicating contour lines with thin drill.

**Description:** gazelle facing right, with linear motifs above and below forming together with horn an open-edged sub-rhomboid frame.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, end of early Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq (or Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for individual animals represented in "point group 1" layout in a similar engraving style devoid of any volume cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Nos. 64 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period), 132 (carinated hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XI, Uruk period = Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 42.2, level XI/XI A, Gawra period). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 45.



345

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 19x17x8.5mm. Gable sub-hemispheroid (close to gabled pearl), round base. Comparatively large perforation (4.5x5mm.) on short axis. Broken and chipped on base and near one perforation hole. Design oblique-angled to perforation.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with rounded and thin drills.

**Description:** wind-hound dog (or wild ass) facing right, long body, four legs with small slanting ends, lowered tail with scorpion(?) and curved motif above and foliate motif (bud) in field between legs below.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the motif occurs in the ending Ubaid period. It is most common in the Gawra/early Uruk period in Tepe Gawra glyptic where some of the dogs are depicted in a much more realistic way than the animal on the present example. For the same animal cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 260 (broken impression, same leg pose, less linear body, Tepe Gawra, level XII); Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 58 (gabled hemispheroid, two legs, same elongated body, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II period); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 192.9 (hemispheroid). For similar dogs with fuller bodies depicted with other animals and filling motifs from Tepe Gawra, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 275 (square impression, level XI A), 277 (round impression, level XI-A), 278 (round impression, level XI A), 285-289 (round and square impressions, level XI/XA); Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 143 (square impression, level XI). Four legged animals with thin, elongated bodies appear regularly on later Ubaid

period pearl seals from Degirmentepe, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 545, 546, 550.



131

346

**Object:** dark red to black serpentine, 19x16x6.5mm. Low pearl with flattened back curved toward base; low, flat top with round sides perforation side profile; uneven ovoid base truncated on one perforation side. Perforation (4mm.) slightly cutting into back, on long axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with sharp, angular edged drill.

**Description:** unidentified motif. Dog or wolf facing right(?) or plant(?) or scorpion with radiating filling motifs.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape found in later Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 545 (similar engraving technique, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). For schematic animals and scorpions depicted in similar short, sharp, angular cuts cf. ibid.: No. 548 (lentoid pearl, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). For the schematic engraving style and similar layout of composition cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 224.4.



347

**Object:** black-blueish serpentine, 20x20x10mm. Low hemispheroid, round base slightly truncated on sides of perforation holes. Perforation (4x5mm.) cutting into back on one side.

**Technique:** shallow, faint linear incisions and cut with thin, sharp-edged drill, coarse work.

**Description:** gazelle (or dog) facing left with small chevron, very small drilled dots and short strokes in front and below. (If dog - with two lines above).

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia (or Syria).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similar caprids of better workmanship cf. WFC No. 343 (with lists) and on a seal from Tell Gomel, Ubaid period in Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 317. For wind-hound dogs cf. WFC No. 345.

348

**Object:** shining black serpentine with white veins, 22.5x24x11.5mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Deep elongated ovoid perforation (4x11mm and 7mm. deep.) cutting back from above base to narrow top, forming round top sub-handle. Broken and chipped on base, chipped on back.

**Technique:** deep, thin linear cut with sharp edged drill and deep drilled holes with rounded drill.

**Description:** two human figures in copulation. Left figure (female) sits with legs crossing right figure. Upper bodies apart with outstretched arms. Elongated, thread-like figures with dot heads. Left figure with one dot hand and one two-finger hand; right figure with three-finger hand and one-finger hand. Two drilled dots in field below hand of right figure.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** erotic scenes of copulating humans in the "hieros gamos" motif probably enter the glyptic repertoire toward the end of the Ubaid period. They are comparatively popular in the Gawra period, especially in Tepe Gawra glyptic and continue to appear in the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 260. Two versions are known from round impressions: the sitted couple and the standing couple. Most of the figures are elongated, with fuller bodies (some with triangular chests) and linear heads in profile. For examples of the sitted copulating version from Tepe Gawra cf. ibid.: Nos. 297 (level XI A/XI, Gawra period), 303 (small round impression, level XI, Gawra period), 325 (level VIII, later Uruk period). For a very similar elongated thread-like figure with two and three fingered hands, however, with linear head in profile cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 171 (identical shape, Tepe Gawra, level X, Gawra period). For elongated thread-like human figure with drilled dot head, hands and legs cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 41.4 (Tepe Gawra, level XI, Gawra period). Cf. also the two standing schematic humans copulating, one with drilled dot head, in Buchanan 1981: No. 73 (low oval carinated hemispheroid, second half of 4th millennium, with bibliography on the erotic subject) and the very similar scene in linear and drilled dot style on a rectangular prism from the Smyrna area in Delaporte 1920: G.11.e. (the bodies and heads of the figures on sides a-d of this rectangular are broader and larger than on our piece). Unusual perforation, probably retouched and deepened by ancient or modern hand.



349

**Object:** black serpentine, 18.5x16x7mm. Low gabled hemispheroid, sub-round base truncated on sides below perforation. Perforation (4mm.) reaching base on one side, on short axis. Christie's 1993: group 315 (Marcopoli Collection).

**Technique:** linear cut with blunt drill and sharp angular drill; ovoid cut and polished around one perforation end (cut and hole: 7x6mm.).

**Description:** goat facing left, short V horns, four legs with filling motifs above and below.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, late Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for same motif and engraving style cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 94 (small round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A). For leg pose cf. WFC No. 376. For reclining caprids with elongated bodies cut in similar technique cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 293 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A, Gawra period), 545 (lentoid pearl, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period).



350

**Object:** red-brown serpentine, 25.5x24.5x10.5mm. Low, flattened hemispheroid with uneven back (close to discoid), sub-round base with small angular notches near perforation holes. Perforation (5mm.) on short axis, parallel to central part of design. Chipped on sides of base and back.

**Technique:** deep linear and flat cut with sharp, angular and pointed edged drill and blunt drill (negative design?).

**Description:** insect-like creature (crab or centipede). Diagonal, rhomboid, and diagonal forming central axis with parallel angles on both sides.

**Date/origin:** first half (or middle) of 4th millennium, later Ubaid (or Gawra/early Uruk period), North Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iran, (Western Iran [Luristan?] or South Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape indicates an Ubaid 4 date at the earliest, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. For an almost identical creature, in negative design, on an high oval

hemispheroid cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 65 (bought Gaziantep, perhaps from Tell Basher). A similar design occurs in an impression on clay from Tell Grar. Cf. Ben-Tor 1990: 83, fig. 6a (4th millennium, North Syrian origin). For hemispheroids with direct negative(?) designs in relief cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 187.8, 188.1-8 (non zoomorphic designs, Nos. 7-8 of same porphyry-red colour stone); Buchanan 1981: Nos. 83 (hemispheroid, schematic horned animal, blob before it, North Mesopotamia, first half of 4th millennium?), 84 (oval hemispheroid, horned animal head beside horned animal head, amids blobs(?), North Mesopotamia, first half of 4th millennium).



351

**Object:** brown fossilised bone, 18x15.5x7.5mm. Low hemispheroid, ovoid base with small notches below perforation holes. Ovoid perforation (3x4mm.) reaching base on one end, on short axis oblique to design. Crack in center of base and back.

**Technique:** fairly shallow cut with broad and round ended drills.

**Description:** two animals facing right, back to back, with lowered heads, one with raised tail (feline animal?), one smaller(dog?).

**Date/origin:** early second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for bone seals with animal designs in different layouts cf. WFC No. 352 below and Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig.193:8 (hemispheroid, Judeideh, Amuq F); Homes-Fredericq 1970: Nos. 135(lentoid, round base, Tepe Gawra, level XI, Gawra/early Uruk period), 157 (large carinated sub-hemispheroid with irregular square base, Tepe Gawra, level X, Gawra/early Uruk period); WFC No. 352 (animal design). For two animals back to back on hemispheroids cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: 73 (Tepe Gawra, Tell Brak, Nuzi, Uruk, Tello, Ur and Fara, all later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period. The Southern examples are cut in gouging style usually on larger hemispheroids; the Brak pieces are mainly depicted in a flatter style or in a similar broad engraving style); Amiet 1972: Nos. 127-131 (thread-like animals, Susa A); Keel-Leu 1991: Nos. 26-7 (similar broad cut but with decorative designs on body and filling motifs, Ubaid 4, North Syria, South-East Anatolia); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 64 (similar engraving style, perforated oblique to design, bought Birejik); Buchanan 1981: No. 78 (hemispheroid, sharper engraving style, North Mesopotamia, first half of 4th millennium); WFC No. 340. For similar base engraving style with perforation oblique to animal design cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 62 (bought Asia Minor), 63 (bought Karaj Oren, North Syria).



352

133

**Object:** brown fossilised bone, 15x14x6mm. Low hemispheroid, oval base with small notch below one perforation hole. Perforation (3x3.5mm.) reaching base on one side, on short axis oblique to design. Broken and chipped on base.

**Technique:** linear and curved cut with very thin drills with angular and triangular ends.

**Description:** two schematic animals in opposite directions with their legs on central dividing line. On top: moufflon facing left with horned head below head and oval motif (partially obliterated) above. Below: stag facing right with coiled serpent below head and short linear motif above.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period), Syria, Palestine or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** small bone hemispheroids occur infrequently during the Ubaid period and increasingly during the Uruk period especially in North Syrian and North Mesopotamian glyptic, cf. Nos. 321, 326 and 351 above. Layered arrangement of many or few animals in "band group p1" layout is most common in the Gawra period, however without the dividing line and usually with many identical animals in each band. The band layout with two animals without the divider line occurs also in later Uruk period glyptic mainly from the North. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 261 (with examples). For later Uruk examples cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 514 (oval impression, four legged caprids, Fara, "Jamdet Nasr" period); Buchanan 1981: Nos. 72, 75 (hemispheroids, four legged caprids, North Mesopotamia?), 91 (oval hemispheroid, Southern Mesopotamia, Susiana, first half of 4th millennium). The three legged caprid seems to be a Syrian phenomena.



353

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 15x15x5mm. Low hemispheroid, round base. Perforation (2x4mm.) reaching far into back below top. Chipped near edge of perforation holes.

**Technique:** deep cut with broad angular drill, thinner drill with sharp triangular edge and round (gouged) drill; perforated with round drill, cut and polished with rounded drill around lower part of perforation hole (cut and hole: 4x5mm.).

**Description:** composite turtle-like human-demon or mythological creature with filling motifs. Figure with circular

head, raised "hands", outstretched pointed legs toward "hands", and long, thin tail.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period), Syria, North Palestine, North Iraq, South-West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for an identical motif on round base hemispheroid from Susa cf. Le Brun, 1985: 35, fig. 2. The same figure occurs with minor variations on WFC Nos. 354 (pyramid), 406 (tabloid). For similar turtlelike or lizardlike human figures without the tail on hemispheroids or ovoids cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 74 (lizardlike creature); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 190.2 (frog?), 3, 5. Engraving style close to WFC Nos. 340, 351. See also the creature on the low handled, round base seal in Von Der Osten 1975: No. 28 and the similar figure on Wadi Rabah pottery sherd from Ain Jarba in Mellart 1975: fig. 155.



354

**Object:** black flint with dark grey vein and white patina, 12.5x11x6mm. Low pyramid with sharp, angular back and base contours, rectangular base. Small perforation (2mm.) near apex, on short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear and curved cut with sharp angular and triangular edged drills.

**Description:** composite turtle-like or lizard-like human-demon or mythological figure, with daggers(?) below raised arms (angle bent at ankles).

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably early Uruk period), Syria, North Palestine, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** base motif basically as WFC No. 353 above, but more angular and without the long tail. In its angular cut this depiction of the motif is closer to WFC No. 406. The pyramidal shape is extremely rare in Southern glyptic. For pyramidal seals in Uruk glyptic cf. Von Wickede 1990: 245, note 4, Tab. 3. The shape of this pyramid is close to that of a small gable seal. In its minute size and sharp angular back contours the present pyramid resembles the group of small gable pyramids from the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. WFC Nos. 334, 384-6, 388-9, 391, 393, 399. In its very small perforation hole the present piece resembles small pearls, sub-hemispheroids and hemispheroids from the Ubaid period. Cf. WFC Nos. 201-6.



355

**Object:** dark green serpentine, 20x20x5mm. Low carinated hemispheroid, round base. Perforated (4mm.).

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with angular drill, pointed edged drill and rounded edge drill.

**Description:** horned moufflon head with bird above, angle and stroke below.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape common from later Ubaid period to later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3. Horned heads, and especially naturalistic representations of horned heads, such as the one on the present hemispheroid, are most popular during the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: 267. For two identical horned heads in a similar engraving style cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 146 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI, Gawra/early Uruk period). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: Nos. 69 (low carinated hemispheroid, two moufflon heads one above the other, North Syria, first half of 4th millennium), 68 (gable hemispheroid, two reverse moufflon heads, North Syria); Von der Osten 1957: fig. 6.57 (round base hemispheroid[?], from North Syria). For a single horned head with similar filling motifs and same layout cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 68 (carinated hemispheroid, bought Aleppo, Uruk period). Cf. also WFC No. 357.



356

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 15x17x5mm. Low carinated hemispheroid, sub-ovoid base, truncated below perforation. Ovoid perforation (3x4mm.) reaching back, on short axis. Much worn.

**Technique:** shallow linear incisions cut with linear, angular and rounded edged drills.

**Description:** horned moufflon head with small triangular strokes below.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 355 above. For similar shape, size and engraving style cf. especially Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 181.6 (small gable, rectangular base with round corners, two moufflon heads one above the other).



355

351

**Object:** black-green serpentine, 25.5x21x6mm. Low ovoid pearl with truncated, carinated hemispheroid perforation holes profile; sub-ovoid base truncated on short sides. Perforation (one end: 3mm., other end: 4mm.), on long axis. Slightly chipped base.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium and small size drills with blunt and pointed ends.

**Description:** four (or six) horned heads. Two reversed curved horned heads ('moufflons' or 'bulls') enclosing angles (or smaller horned heads?) below on long axis. Two straight horned heads ('goats') facing center at ends of faint central line on short axis.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape in the Uruk periods. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 258, Tab. 3. Symmetrical rotating layouts with six horned heads occur in the Gawra/early Uruk period, while two reversed horned heads appear already in the later Ubaid period. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 292 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A, Gawra/early Uruk period), 350 (ovoid impression, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). Horned heads arranged in strict rotating symmetrical "point group 4mm" layout are mainly a feature of later Uruk period glyptic. Cf. ibid.: No. 598 (disk, four identical horned heads of a different type, Tell Brak, later Uruk period). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 191.8, 192.6, 193.6.

(hemispheroid, two reverse moufflon heads, Tepe Gawra, level VII, Jamdet Nasr period); Von Wicked 1990: No. 598 (disk, four horned heads, Tell Brak, later Uruk period).

135



359

**Object:** black serpentine, 21x22.5x8mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Perforation (3.5x5mm.) near base.

**Technique:** deep linear and many drilled holes linked together by gouges with large drill and drills with rounded ends of various sizes.

**Description:** two sets of scrolls or stylized horns on ends of central line. Very small horned heads or lines in field on opposite axis.

**Date/origin:** end of 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk period, North Syria, North Iraq or South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 358 above, but cut in a different engraving technique. For identical motif, layout and engraving style cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 362 (large hemispheroid, Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period).

## 6. Handled seals



358

**Object:** black serpentine, 27.5x27.5x11.5mm. Hemispheroid, round base. Perforation (4x5mm.) near base.

**Technique:** deep cut with medium size drills with triangular and rounded ends (negative cut?).

**Description:** stylized double horned heads or symmetrical scroll-cross design. Two sets of scrolls (horns?) on top of central line with two smaller lines forming semi-cross in center.

**Date/origin:** end of 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk period, North Syria (Amuq Ghorizon), or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** stylized horned heads arranged in "point groups mm2 or 4mm" layouts are mainly a feature of later Northern Uruk glyptic. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 253: 7 (hemispheroid, almost identical design and cut, Amuq G); Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 210



360

**Object:** black serpentine, 17.5x16x11mm. Sub-conoidal-pyramidal back with rounded corners with top formed into small, thin handle; circular, almost ovoid base. Large ovoid "handle" perforation (5mm. wide) dug on back, on short axis. Broken on top of perforation and chipped on one side of perforation.

**Technique:** linear cut with fairly thin drill with pointed and blunted edges.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with angle in each quadrant.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape common in Halaf and early Ubaid periods. However, in the Syrian, Palestine, and

Anatolian areas these small conoidal-pyramidal seals were sporadically produced also during the later periods. For close shapes cf. WFC Nos. 151, 159, 181 (angle-filled cross base design). The angle-filled cross base design is most popular from the later Ubaid period onwards. For this version of the angle-filled cross with one angle in each quadrant on a pyramidal seal cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191:4 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq F). For the motif on other shapes cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 360 (small tabloid, Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period); Amlet 1972: Nos. 28, (baked clay, convex base sub-hemispheroid, Susa A), 71, ("estampille", convex base, baked clay, Susa A), 158 (many concave impressions on flat sealing, Susa B). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 33 (bought North Syria); Von der Osten 1957: Pl. LXXXVI, fig. 6.13, S85 (Sialk I); WFC No. 361 below.



## 361

**Object:** cream limestone, 26x27.5x21mm. High loop handle above high conoidal back, round base. Large pearl-like handle perforation (one end: 6x7mm., other end: 7x8mm.), (from ware?) on short axis. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** very deep linear cut with thick rounded drill; handle perforation hole drilled on back from both sides.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with angle in each quadrant.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period, Syria, South-East Anatolia (or North Iraq, Western Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape a variation of the Halaf and Ubaid (mainly early Ubaid period) round based handled seals, cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. For piriform perforation cf. WFC Nos. 30, 151, 194, 363. For close shapes, however with the handle separated from the back and not "growing" directly from it as in this piece, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 253:10 (smaller, Amuq G level); Buchanan 1981: No. 88 (animals with filling motifs, similar deep cut, with lists, c. 3000 B.C.). For near shapes with wider flat top handle from Susa A cf. Amlet 1972: Nos. 55 (same material, two lines crossed covered with lines), 59 (baked clay, cross with drilled dot in quadrants, within circle). For design see WFC No. 360 (shallow cut) above and WFC Nos. 283-5 (hemispheroids).



## 362

**Object:** cream, brown serpentine or volcanic stone, 16x15.5x11.5mm. Sub-conoidal-pyramidal back with rounded corners and top. Top formed into thin ridge handle; round base. Comparatively small handle perforation (3x4mm.), on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep even linear cut with medium and thin size drills with pointed edges; perforation narrowing into smaller hole in center

**Description:** angle-filled cross filled with double chevrons in each quadrant.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period, Syria, South-East Anatolia (or North Iraq, Western Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC Nos. 360-1 above. For design cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Figs. 120 (low hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A), 121 (oval impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 253:4 (truncated conoid, Amuq G), 5 (loop on top of sloping back, Amuq G), 380:1-2 (gable seals, purchased in the Amuq area, said to come from Chatal Huyuk); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 22 (boot or foot-shaped of close shape, angle-filled cross with two chevrons in quadrants except for three dots in one quadrant, bought Antioch); WFC Nos. 288-9, 292, 296 (hemispheroids), 421 (reel-shaped)



## 363

**Object:** dark brown-black serpentine with patina, 28.5x27x14mm. Large loop handle in center of comparatively thin sloping back, irregular circular base. Large, elongated pear-shaped handle perforation (6x8mm.) reaching back with very thin top, narrowing handle in center. Perforation on short axis. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** deep, even linear cut with medium size drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with double chevrons and drilled dot in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Ubaid period, Syria, South-East Anatolia (or North Iraq, Western Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for very similar shapes cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 197 (Gird Banahik, Halaf period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Fig. 253.10 (late Chalcolithic period); Buchanan 1981: No. 88. For same design cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 262 (round impression, Tepe Gawra,

level XII(?)), 532 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, later Chalcolithic period); Schmidt 1937: No. H1939 (ridge handle, square base, Hissar II-III); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 29 (high hemispheroid, bought north coast of Syria); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 184.3 (low hemispheroid), 185.7 (hemispheroid); Von der Osten 1957: Nos. 35-6; WFC No. 295 (carinated hemispheroid).



364

**Object:** olive green serpentine, 17.5x12.5x8.5mm. Small loop handle, oval base. Small handle perforation (2.5x3mm.) on long axis, parallel to design.

**Technique:** deep cut with slightly angular drill with blunt edge and medium size drill with pointed end without interior detail.

**Description:** addorsed bucrania (bull's and goat's heads) tilting to sides.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iran, North Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the position of the small loop-handle on the long axis of this flat based seal is unusual for seals of similar shape from the Halaf and Ubaid periods. Flat based "button" seals gradually go out of fashion in the later North Ubaid period and are rare in the Gawra period. The odd position of the loop-handle on this seal may indicate a later misunderstanding of the earlier shapes. Bucrania as the only motif are most common in the Gawra period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 272 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI A), 279 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI A), 291 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A), 292 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A). Cf. also the bucrania with raised horns on the Gawra period or slightly later impressions from Arpatchiya and Tell Qaling Aga in *ibid.* Nos. 408, 480. The engraving style of the present bucrania is very close to that of some late Ubaid and Gawra periods gable seals and of other 4th millennium stones mainly from Syria and South-East Anatolia. For heads of full bodied animals cut in similar engraving style with no secondary detail cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191:7 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq F); Buchanan 1981: Nos. 48, 61; Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 192.6 (mouflon head, carinated hemispheroid, 5th-4th millennium).



365

**Object:** light brown-cream burned clay, 15.5x16x13.5mm. Columnar stem handle with slightly wider top in center of thin, slightly sloping back, semi-convex, round base. Grooved below handle with radiating strokes on edge of back. Broken on top of stem handle below(?) handle perforation.

**Technique:** very deep linear cut with thick implement with angular edge and shallow incisions with very thin, sharp edged implement: negative cut?.

**Description:** "Maltese cross" if negative. Or cross with additional line within square frame with few strokes in one quadrant and radiating strokes outside frame if positive.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium, later Chalcolithic, early Bronze periods, end of late Ubaid period, Uruk period (probably early Uruk period), Anatolia, Syria, (or North Iraq or South-West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 366 below, but of burnt clay, smaller and with convex base. For similar shape cf. also Von der Osten 1957: No. 79 (cross with central drilled hole and strokes in quadrants). The convex base of the present small piece could have been influenced by convex based "button seals" which are most popular in the Ubaid and Uruk periods in South-East Iran. In North Iraq and other North areas these "button seals" gradually disappear during the later Ubaid period. The semi-convex base of the present seal probably indicates an earlier date than the otherwise similarly shaped WFC No. 366. The "Maltese cross" motif develops in the later Ubaid period, but is most common in Gawra/early Uruk period glyptic and is found also in later Uruk glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 345, 346 (squarish impressions, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period), 534 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XI A, later Chalcolithic era), 535 (reel shaped seal, Arslantepe, later Chalcolithic era). For identical or very similar positive cruciform designs within square frame cf. Schmidt 1937: Pl. XV, No. H2051 (convex based button seal, Hissar I), Pl. XLIX, No. H1854 (baked clay, Hissar IIIB); Amiet 1972: Nos. 80, 91-2, 94 (hemispheroids, Susa B); Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 39.12 (Hakalan or Dum Gar Parcina, Luristan). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 24 ("button" with very convex base and almost flat back, said to be from Tepe Giyan); WFC Nos. 148-9, 301 (hemispheroids), 233 (pearl), 78 (pendant), 274 (tabloid).



366

**Object:** black-grey serpentine, 15.5x15x20mm. Conoidal seal with long stem handle and slightly wider rounded top in center of low, sloping conoidal back; irregular round base. Small handle perforation (2mm.) very close to top, on long axis. Broken during manufacture(?) on top near perforation, chipped on base.

137

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with thin drill and drilled dots with very small rounded edged drill; even perforation from one side with metal drill.

**Description:** angle-filled cross with central drilled dot, double angle and drilled dot in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** end of 4th-3rd millennium (or later), early Bronze period, later Uruk period (or Alisar I period) (or later), Anatolia, Syria, Palestine.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape developed from the similar, mainly convex based conoids of later Ubaid and early Uruk period. Cf. Amiet 1972: No. 56 (convex base, irregular cross design, Susa A); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 125 (closer to conoid, convex base, irregular grid criss-cross design, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A); Schmidt 1937: fig. 2, H518 (Hissar III); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 101:4 (smaller, grooved below stem, angle-filled cross base design, First Mixed Range, Amuq?). However, seals of this shape, or of similar shapes, are most common in Anatolia and Syria in the early Bronze period where they are usually decorated with similar simple linear and small dot designs. In Anatolia, Syria and Palestine, these long stem conoidal shapes continue to be produced well into the 2nd millennium. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 52-53, 255, Abb. 22.1 (identical shape, clay, symmetrical curved linear design with small drilled dots, Kocumbeli); Von der Osten 1957: fig. 4, Nos. 10 (Hisarlık), 12 (Hisarlık), 11 (Ahlatibel), 12 (Hisarlık), 13 (Karaoglan), 14 (Ahlatibel), 20 (Alisar I period). For design cf. WFC Nos. 205, 206. Clay "seals" of very similar shapes with flat or slightly round convex bases decorated with various cruciform base designs occur also in the Copper Age cultures of South-East Europe. However, they are unperforated, larger and with a longer stem handle than the present piece. Cf. Makkay 1984: Fig. XXVII, Nos. 118 (environs of Kaposvár, Hungary), 145 (Manolé-Razkopanitsa, Bulgaria), 171 (Nemčíče, Czechoslovakia), 282 (Záhorská Ves, Czechoslovakia).



Stem

Top

Base

361

**Object:** black serpentine, 22x20.5x42mm. Conoidal seal with long rounded top columnar stem handle continuing high sloping, conoidal back; ovoid base. Large perforation (one end: 6mm.; other end: 5mm.) below top of handle.

**Technique:** top: deep linear cut with medium size drill with pointed edge; stem: linear cut of various depths; fairly deep and shallow grooves with medium and thin drills and

shallow incisions with very thin drill with pointed edge; base: deep linear cut with medium size drill with pointed edge, medium and thin drills with pointed ends and shallow drilled dots with very small, thin rounded edged drill; perforation from two sides narrowing in center.

**Description:** top: cross. Stem handle: six round grooves from top to sloping back forming six zones of various heights. Three narrow upper zones - plain. Three lower, wider zones incised in first and second zones with alternating diagonal lines and with diagonal criss-cross pattern in third zone. Base: cross filled with many irregular radiating and swirling diagonal lines, angles, small cross and strokes in quadrants with occasional tiny drilled dot.

**Date/origin:** end of 4th-3rd millennium (or later), late Chalcolithic or early Bronze periods, later Uruk period or later, Anatolia, Syria, North Palestine.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 366 above, but larger and with a much taller stem handle directly continuing conoidal back. The base design is an irregular variation on the symmetrical rotating "point group 4" layout common mainly from the later Ubaid period until the ending later Uruk period. These motif and layout disappear from the glyptic repertoire after the early Bronze Age. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 261, 263, Abb. 22.3 (clay, low conoidal, symmetrical "point group 4" layout, Kocumbeli, 3rd millennium); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 253:13 (conoid with broken top, identical layout and cut base design, Amuq G). For the simple cross design on top of the present seal cf. WFC Nos. 170, 203, 299 (hemispheroids), 265 (discoid), 247 (bi-faced gable); Amiet 1972: Nos. 82-3, 87 (hemispheroids, Susa B); Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 408 (hemispheroid, Jamdet-Nasr, Jamdet Nasr period). Similar geometric designs are carved on worked animal bones of close shapes and size. These carved bones are found at various sites covering a large area, including Syria, Palestine and Anatolia. They are dated to the late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze eras. The geometric designs on these animal bones which are closest in type to our seal, are on bones from North Syria. Cf. Zarsek Pleg 1992: 55-64; Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 300 (Amuq H), pl. 76:1,2 (Amuq G). The exact relationship between the decorated bones and this seal are unknown. In its shape this seal probably developed from the smaller, similar stone or clay conoidal stem seals with similar base decorations. However, it is not inconceivable that the inspiration for this seal's shape and side decoration came from decorated bones and/or that the present piece is a direct attempt at copying these decorated bones into stone. In its shape and size the present seal also recalls Old Hittite seals (as well as the Copper Age clay seals from South-East Europe). Cf. WFC No. 366 above. Similarly shaped seals, with thinner, undecorated stem or larger back, were found in tombs at Karum Kanish (East Anatolia), level Ib (Old Hittite Period, but some are possibly remains from earlier periods), Cf. Ozguc 1968: Pl. No. XXIX. 2a-b (swirl base design), 4a-b (swastika base design), Pl. XXXVIII. 1-6. Thus, the possibility that the present piece could be a North Syrian product produced under Old Hittite hegemony or influence can not be ruled out.

7. Pyramids, pyramidal, conoids, conoidals and related shapes



368

**Object:** dark red-purple serpentine, 18x12x19mm. "Pebble" transformed into an irregular pyramidal seal with high back with rounded contours and thin, uneven sub-pyramid diagonal top; rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (one end: 3x6mm.; other end: 3x3.5mm.) in center near top, on short axis. Broken on lower side of back and base, chipped on base.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size drill and secondary sharp linear cut for perpendicular strokes with thinner drill; ovoid perforation drilled on one side of back to smaller perforation hole on other side.

**Description:** swastika, lengthwise, with many parallel perpendicular strokes on each arm.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th - middle of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later period), (or Gawra/early Uruk period), Syria, East Anatolia (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to pyramidal seals from Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3, Abb. 43.1 (Byblos, end of Chalcolithic period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 406 (Tell Mefesh, Ubaid period). The swastika motif, a pure rotating symmetrical "point group 4" layout is a typical Ubaid design which first occurs on an early Ubaid period pendant from Tepe Gawra. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 212 (thinner and without perpendicular strokes). For swastika engraved in a similar sharp cut but without the perpendicular strokes cf. Delaporte 1920: No. S.94 (hemispheroid, Susa A or B); Von der Osten 1957: No. 40 (rectangular base); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 179.8 (gable). For "Maltese cross" filled with parallel strokes cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 534 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XI A). Both design and engraving style of present stone are in affinity with the stroke-filled quatrefoil on an Amuq F gable seal, cf. Braidwood/ Braidwood 1960: fig. 380:8. Stamp seals' designs with many parallel, slightly curved strokes on hemispheroids from Susa C are more radial and of a different character than the perpendicular strokes on this seal. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 316 (irregular hemispheroid, Susa C), 320-22 (hemispheroids, Susa C).



369

139

**Object:** dark red serpentine, 15x10x15mm. Pyramidal seal with slightly sloping wide back sides, rounded back contours and flat top; rectangular base with rounded and angular corners. Perforation (4x4.5mm.) in center, on short axis. Chipped on base and back.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with medium size angular drill with pointed end and secondary sharp linear cut for perpendicular strokes with thinner drill.

**Description:** reclining feline animal (panther? lion?) to left, raised head, lowered tail. Many small parallel strokes on neck, legs and tail. Linear motif with many similar strokes above animal.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Chalcolithic period, later Ubaid period, (or Gawra/early Uruk period), Syria, East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and engraving style close to WFC No. 368 above. However, shape of present piece more regular. Strokes decorating animals' bodies occur in later Ubaid depictions of animals or birds as well as in the Gawra and gable engraving styles of the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 547 (Degirmentepe, later Ubaid), 559, 563 (Susa, Susa A, later Chalcolithic). For perpendicular stroke frame and parallel strokes on animal bodies on gable seals, cf. ibid.: Nos. 575 (Norsuntepe, later Chalcolithic period), 576 (Tell Brak, later Chalcolithic period). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 58 (lion); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 180.4; Keel-Leu 1991: No. 32 (lion, Amuq F horizon, North Syria, South East Anatolia, with lists).



370

**Object:** white limestone with cream patina, 26x20.5x20mm. Pyramid with oblong pyramidal back with rounded corners and wide top with rounded corners; rectangular base with rounded corners. Large perforation (7mm.) in center on short axis. From the Nablus area, Israel.

**Technique:** deep, sharp linear cut with medium size drills with sharp, angular and blunted edges and thin drill with pointed end; large perforation from both sides narrowing to small hole in center. Thin, linear cavity starting from top of perforation hole to back top and narrowing towards end.

**Description:** three horned animals: two gazelles (or gazelle and feline animal) one above other (one facing left,

the other-right) and goat in 90 degrees to them with head facing down, with linear filling motifs. All within linear ovoid frame. One gazelle (or feline animal) stands with its legs to center. Animals with thin thread-like bodies and four legs.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of Chalcolithic period, end of later Ubaid period (or beginning of Gawra/early Uruk period), Syria, South-East Anatolia or Palestine.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to some pyramid seals from Aceramic Neolithic to Halaf period and also to pyramidal seals dated to the ending later Ubaid period and the Gawra/early Uruk period. In the said later periods these pyramids are found mainly in Syria, South-East Anatolia and Palestine. Cf. WFC. Nos. 29 (smaller), 189 (sharper base cut) and 371 (flatter) and Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 22 (Ras Shamra, Amuq A period), Abb. 43.1 (thinner, Byblos, end of later Ubaid period). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 16 (Ubaid period). The linear cavity growing from top of perforation is most probably a result of the strong pressure of the suspension cord (or metal) pressed into the soft seal material (over a long period?). The layout of horned animals facing in the same direction, and placed one above the other with a third animal (or more) positioned in 90 degrees to them, does not occur before the later Ubaid period. This layout is usually found on round impressions. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 248 (Tepe Gawra, level XIII), 285, 286 (Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A), 353 (Degirmen tepe, later Ubaid period). The animals depicted on the above impressions are rendered in a fuller, more naturalistic style than the thread-like animals decorating the present piece. The adjustment of this layout into rectangular or ovoid bases results in a less rotating kind of layout. For horned animals represented with similar elongated bodies and rendered in a simplified, linear engraving style on close bodied seals other than pyramids cf. *ibid.*: Nos. 563 (hemispheroid, Tell Asmar, later Chalcolithic era), 585 (pyramidal gable, Sagarab, later Chalcolithic era). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: Nos. 53 (gable, North Syria), 75 (hemispheroid, North Mesopotamia); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 177.8 (gable, close layout, type of animals and engraving style), 191.1 (hemispheroid), 192.8 (hemispheroid, 193.1 (loop-handled, round base), 2; Amiet 1972: No. 172 (hemispheroid, Susa A); Keel-Leu, No. 21 (rhomboid, North Syria, South-East Anatolia, Ubaid 4 period). A larger seal of similar back shape with ovoid base and smaller perforation positioned nearer top was found out of context in Gezer, Palestine and dated by Keel-Leu to the Semitic period. Cf. Keel-Leu 1990: 386, 389, No. 97 (schematic linear caprids one above the other, facing right, with human figure above). Both shape, base motifs and layout of this piece from Gezer are found in later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk periods and the layout and motifs are typical for ending later Ubaid and Gawra/early Uruk periods. Thus, we believe that the seal from Gezer should also be dated to the later Chalcolithic era.

### 371

**Object:** white-light grey pumice with pores (vulcanic stone). 26x16x11.5mm. Pyramid with sub-pyramidal back with rounded corners and low, wide top with rounded corners; irregular rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (4x5mm.) in center on short axis. Chipped on base. From the Nablus area, Israel.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with sharp angular drill, thin drill with very pointed edge and small rounded drill for rounded heads (bouteroule).

**Description:** two schematic human figures with two animals. If read as horizontal layers then each human figure stands at 90 degrees above one animal. If read as two vertical layers then each human figure stands in front of one animal. Thus, when read as horizontal layers one striding human figure to right, head to center, right hand slightly lowered holding curved implement, left hand outstretched toward back of dog or wild ass. Dog or stylized wild ass stands, head to center facing left. To its left, stands second human figure facing right, head toward center. His right hand slightly lowered or holding short rectangular implement. His outstretched left hand holding sub-rectangular object (cloth?) in air behind back of goat or antelope. Goat or antelope facing left, away from center of stone, with head turned back.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of Chalcolithic period, end of later Ubaid period, or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia or Palestine.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 370 above, but squatter pyramid. Rare material for seal due to its brittle nature. Design a variety of "band group p1a" layout close to "point group 2" layout. Figurative representations in "band group p1a" layout begin to appear toward the end of the later Ubaid period and continue well into the Uruk period. Where as drilled dots combined with linear depictions of figurative motifs occur first in the early Ubaid period and again only in the ending Ubaid 4 period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 261, 265, 268, Abb. 7, Tab. 4. The linear engraving technique and the type of elongated animals rendered on the present pyramid are close to the linear animals in WFC No. 370 above. For similar layout of one human figure and animal on a square impression cf. *ibid.*: No. 284 Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, end of later Ubaid period. Cf. also the similar combination of thread-like human figures with dotted heads and animals on hemispheroids and gable seals in Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 177.3, 180.4, 181.1, 190.1, 3, 6; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 85 (bought Beirut). For human figures depicted in similar postures cf. Delaporte 1920: No. A.43 (large, low hemispheroid, wider engraving style, human figure with long dress standing behind gazelle and ram, back to back).





312

**Object:** red-brown serpentine, 15.5x15x12mm. Pyramidal seal with low, cut top rectangular sub-handle on pyramidal back with angular and curved contours, uneven square base. Perforation (3x5mm.) reaching pyramidal back, on short axis. Chipped base corner.

**Technique:** clear linear cut with very thin drill with sharp edge, and drilled dot or oval heads and hands with slightly thicker drill.

**Description:** human figure, seated(?) to left with raised hands in front, gazelle with back to human figure (its curved horn and head below human figure) with linear motif (snake or implement) in center, within open-corner linear frame with small cross in one corner.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium (or 2nd millennium), end of Chalcolithic period, end of later Ubaid period, or Gawra/early Uruk period, (or later), Syria, North Palestine or South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to the handled pyramids from the Ceramic Neolithic period, but with shorter and wider "handle". Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Tab. 3, Abb. 30.1 (Tell Judeideh), Nos. 227, 392, 173, 179, 427 (with thinner handles). The shape is probably a much later version of the earlier Neolithic shapes. The layout of the design is close to "band group p1a" layout. However, instead of two identical motifs which usually appear in this layout, in the present piece the design is composed of one human figure and an animal facing in opposite directions. A similar combination of motifs arranged in a close layout is found on a rectangular impression from Degirmentepe. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 359 (fuller animal and triangular chested human figure, later Ubaid period). For animals with similar, linear, elongated bodies and the same arrangement of legs cf. ibid.: Nos. 545, 546 (Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period). Base frame of present decoration is close to WFC No. 370. Similar shapes, as well as linear framed designs combining anthropomorphic and zoomorphic motifs occur also in Palestine glyptic of the late 2nd millennium. However, no excavated example from that later age combines in one seal all the features characterizing the present seal or even two of these features in one example. Cf. Keel-Leu 1990: 379, 386, Nos. 69 (larger, similar shape, geometric base design, Tel Masos, ca. 1250-1100a), 94 (different shape, engraving technique and layout of combined anthropomorphic and zoomorphic motif, framed, Bet-Shemesh, ca. 1300-1000a), 96 (different shape, similar thin linear cut of combined human and animal motif, Tell Bet Mirsim, ca. 1400-1200a).

313

**Object:** dark red-purple hematite, 18.5x11x15mm. Pyramidal back with sharp point top, angular side contours, rectangular base with angular corners. Perforation (5.5mm.) below top, on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow incisions with thin, pointed drill; wide perforation from both sides gradually narrowing to very small hole in center.

**Description:** angle-filled uneven cross with one or three angles pointed to center in quadrants, within linear frame.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium, late North Ubaid period, North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for pyramid of similar shape, base shape and size cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 56 (bone, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II). For similar incisions depicting a cruciform design within frame cf. ibid.: fig. 50 (truncated pyramid, Tepe Gawra, level XII, Ubaid II). This type of "point group 4mm" design developed out of similar Halaf and early Ubaid layouts. It is, however, a common layout in late Ubaid (Ubaid 4) glyptic. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 261, Pl. Nos. 253 (round base, Tepe Gawra, level XII), 262, 163 (round and oval impressions, Tepe Gawra, level XII[?]). Cf. also the more developed cruciform design within frame in Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 17 (ridge handle, Al Mina, Amuq E[?]); WFC No. 105 (boot or foot shaped). For the material cf. WFC Nos. 21, 270.

141



314

**Object:** dark red-brown, black serpentine, 13x9.5x20mm. Tall sub-pyramidal narrowing at perforation to form lower pyramidal back with rounded contours and handle-like upper back with thin, narrow rounded top; rectangular base with very rounded corners (almost oval base). Very large ovoid perforation (6x11mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep drilled holes linked together by gouging for body and shallower, fine linear cut with thin drill for legs; large and deep ovoid pre-perforation area from both sides narrowing to pear-like perforation hole (3.5x3.5mm.) on one side and to ovoid perforation hole (3x4mm.) on other side.

**Description:** reclining goat or antelope, to right, head turned back, with four small drilled holes in curved line above.

**Date/origin:** (second half of 5th millennium) or middle or late 4th millennium, (early Ubaid period), or later Uruk period, Northern origin (Syria?).



**Discussion/comparanda:** back shape probably a late development from the earlier Northern Ceramic Neolithic pyramids with handle-like apex, square base and cut top. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 1.16-17, Tab. 3, Pyramidal, truncated conoids and related shapes close to that of the present stone are uncommon shapes in the glyptic of the later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period from Southern Mesopotamia and Susiana. They do occur in the parallel North Syrian, North Mesopotamian glyptic. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 191:4 (Amuq F), 253:3,4 (Amuq G). For pear-like perforation on early Ubaid conoids cf. WFC No. 296. The appearance of pear-like perforation only on one side of the present seal probably points to the continuation of this tradition into a later period. However, it could also result from the pressure of the suspension cord on the soft seal material. The globular engraving style of the reclining animal is most commonly found in later Uruk period glyptic on large hemispheroids, collared hemispheroids, ovoid seals, animal shaped seals' bases and tabloids. However, few small depressions are also found on early Ubaid seals of various shapes depicting individual animals or two animals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 268; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: 26-7; Erlenmeyer 1989: 31. For similar reclining caprines on seals from South Mesopotamia and Susiana cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 347 (hemispheroid, two caprines back to back, Susa C), 385 (caprine to right, Susa C), 400 (tabloid, two animals back to back, Susa C); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 233.4 (hemispheroid, reclining moufflon and dog, drilled holes linked together by gouging), 265 (seal in the form of a lion's head, moufflon in drill technique on base, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, 3300-2900 B.C.). For the same motif in similar engraving style from Tell Brak cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 384 (tabloid).



315

**Object:** light brown chalk, 22x15.5x11.5mm, irregular sub-pyramidal back (close to thick, irregular tabloid) with three straight sides with angular and rounded contours, and one short back side slanting from slightly rounded top; rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (4.5mm.) near top, on short axis. Broken and chipped on base. Design on vertical axis of base.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size drill and shallow drilled dots with rounded (globular) drill.

**Description:** undeciphered motif. Wide spaced criss-cross design formed of two drilled dots and few incisions, or linear human figure with outstretched arms holding long staff or scepter(?) with drilled dot below and small horned animal (goat?) sideways on right.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, Palestine, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape of stone and engraving style close to WFC No. 371. Cf. also Von Wickede 1990: No. 173 (Yarimtepe II, Halaf period). For geometric design combined of linear and small drilled dots cf. ibid.: Nos. 215 (pendant, Tepe Gawra, early Ubaid period), 508 (Tello, early Ubaid period), 509 (lentoid, Tell 'Uqair, later Ubaid period). For style and unclear figurative design in a different layout cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 72 (oval hemispheroid, location not sure). Cf. also pendant and hemispheroid WFC Nos. 101, 348. The present piece has some affinities also with later 2nd millennium Palestinian stamp seals. Cf. Keel-Leu 1990: 386, 388-389, Nos. 94 (similar shape but with less rounder contour, larger perforation and different base design and engraving style, Bet-Shemesh, ca. 1300-1000a), 98 (different shape, schematic human figure with linear crossings and drilled dots in field, Bet-Shemesh, ca. 1300-1200a).



316

**Object:** white-yellowish marble, 23.5x23.5x21mm. Conoid with high round lower back and pointed top; round base. Comparatively small perforation (one end: 4mm.; other end: 5x5mm.) at joining point of two back parts.

**Technique:** deep linear and curved cut with broad, angular drill and medium size drill.

**Description:** antelope facing right, drilled dot above back, elongated triangular motif behind.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Anatolia, Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** rare shape. Shape probably developed from conoids such as WFC No. 378. For close shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3; Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 209 (burned clay, larger, Tepe Gawra, level VII, Jamdet Nasr period). Motif and layout are more common. The sharp engraving style and filling motifs occur most frequently in the ending late Ubaid period, or in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: figs. 176 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level X, Gawra/early Uruk period; Von Wickede 1990: No. 351 (impression, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 47 (low gabled hemispheroid, "bought Sidon"), 49 (carinated hemispheroid, bought Damascus)).



**Object:** dark red jasper, 11.5x9x20mm. Tall, pyramidal back with angular contours and thin, pointed top; rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (2.5x4mm.) near top, on long axis.

**Technique:** sides: small drilled dots with thin drill; base: many small drilled dots of various sizes with few fine, short lines cut with very thin drill.

**Description:** sides A-D: small and tiny drilled dots haphazardly(?) arranged. Base: horned animal(?) made of many small dots mostly linked, or haphazard arrangement of dots.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-3rd millennium, Uruk period or later early Bronze Age, Syria, North Palestine, Anatolia (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** pointed top close to conoids with round bases. Overall shape close to narrow, flat top or cut top pyramids with square bases which appear in the early Uruk period. These pyramids are common shapes mainly in Antolian and North Syrian glyptic of the Early and Middle Bronze Age. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3; Braïdwood/Braïdwood 1960: Figs. 191.4 (Amuq F), 254.4 (Amuq G). Until the later Uruk period jasper is a comparatively rare material in prehistoric glyptic. For later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period animal shaped amulet-seals and hemispheroids made of jasper from Tello cf. Homès-Fredericq 1970: 167; T. 16-17, figs. 472, 476, 478-481, 483. For the material cf. also WFC No. 444. Base decorating devices made in the technique of drilled dots linked together by gouging and executed with a very fine drill, with or without few lines as the only base device occur toward the end of the late Ubaid period. cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 39.6 (Hakalan or Dum Gar Farcina), 43.1-4 (especially No. 3, more orderly arrangements, Byblos). The representation of figurative motives with drilled dots linked together by gouging is a typical Uruk period technique applied usually to collared hemispheroids, rectangular and half-barrel seals from South Mesopotamia and Susiana but occurring also in North Mesopotamian and North Syrian sites. The drilled dots on the present pyramidal seal are smaller than the gouges on the Southern seals and probably represent a local variant on the Southern fashion.



**Object:** cream-grey limestone or chalk, 19x19x19.5mm. Tall conoid with narrowing, pointed top; convex, round base. Comparatively small perforation (one end: 4mm.; other end: 3.5mm.) near top.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear design with medium size drill

and small drilled dots with rounded drill.

**Description:** central line with parallel lines on sides and angles in three "corners" with two drilled dots off center.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Uruk period, Syria, Anatolia (or Western Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3 (flat based); Delaporte 1920: No. S31b (similar shape, slightly shorter, from Susa). For similar designs cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 56 (columnar stem close to conoid, with convex base, Susa A), 58 (similar to No. 56, Susa A), 112-7, 147 (hemispheroids, Susa A); Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 38.3 (round impressions, less symmetrical layout, Tell i-Bakun) Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 22 (thick lentoid, said to be from Tepe Giyan); WFC Nos. 53 (loop handle), 396 (gable).



**Object:** grey, light brown baked clay, 21.5x20.5x21.5mm. Semi bell-conoid with short irregular lower sloping back and tall conoid narrowing to rounded, flattened top; round base. Comparatively small perforation (one end: 2.5mmx4mm.; other end: 3x4mm.) in center.

**Technique:** deep, wide linear cut with large rounded drill and drilled dots with rounded drills of various sizes; perforation drilled from one end with low clay "ring" left around one side of perforation.

**Description:** cross with three or four drilled dots of various depths (0.5mm. or 1mm. or 1.5mm. or 2mm.) and sizes (2mm. or 2mm. or 3mm. or 2x4mm. or 2.5x3mm.) in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-3rd millennium (or 2nd millennium), Uruk period (or later), Syria, Anatolia, Palestine (or North Iraq, Western Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for clay or bitumen conoids of similar or identical shapes cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 56, (bitumen, identical shape, irregular cross design, Susa A), 58 (clay, close shape, line and small dot design, Susa A); Schmidt 1937: No. H3804 (clay, identical shape, undecorated, unperforated, Hissas I); Delaporte 1920: No. G.3 (clay, identical shape(?), broken top, swastika within circle, Smyrna, South-West Anatolia); Homès-Fredericq 1970: fig. 209 (wider conoid, clay, irregular geometric design, Tepe Gawra, level VII, Jamdet Nasr period); Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 22.1-4 (clay, Kocumbell, 3rd or 2nd millennium). Cf. also WFC No. 366. For the motif on a low hemispheroid cf. Vollenweider 1983: No. 3. For similar design decorating a conoid, but with fewer and larger drilled dots cf. WFC No. 197.

Clay pieces of similar and close shapes or with the same and/or similar base design, were found also in South-East European sites from the Middle Neolithic onwards. Cf. Makkay 1984: Nos. 52 (different shape, same base design with drilled dot in center, Emen Cave, district of Tirnovo, Bulgaria, Late Neolithic or Copper Age cultures), 209 (close shape, plain base, Ruse, Northern Bulgaria, Late Neolithic), 225 (same shape and perforation, different base design, Sesklo, Thessaly, Greece, unidentified Neolithic), 305 (close shape, different base design, environs of Szentes, Hungary, Late Neolithic). The same base layout reappears on a late 2nd millennium stamp conoid from Palestine. Cf. Keel-Leu 1990: 382-383, No. 83 (round, convex base, with thin lines connecting drilled dots in quadrants, Tell Bet Mirsim, ca. 1200-900a).



380

**Object:** black-dark grey serpentine, 12.5x12.5x20mm. Irregular tubular-conoid narrowing toward short lower sloping back, round upper back and slightly pointed top, grooved at narrowing point; round base. Large piriform perforation (5x6mm.) near top.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with thin drill and fairly deep drilled dots with irregular round edged drill.

**Description:** cross with central drilled dot, drilled dot at cross ends and drilled dot in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably Gawra/early Uruk period), Syria, Anatolia, North Iraq (or Western Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for conoids of similar shapes cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 125 (Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Gawra/early Uruk period); Schmidt 1937: No. H2582 (clay, Hissar III). For similar designs cf. WFC Nos. 193, 197 (conoids), 300 (hemispheroid).



381

**Object:** dark red serpentine, 16x15x25mm. Very high, narrow conoid with slightly concave center, and round, slightly pointed top; uneven round (almost ovoid) base. Comparatively large perforation (5mm.) near one side above center, on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly shallow linear cut with thin drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** horned moufflon head, (or reclining animal with head turned back).

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, or early 3rd millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period or later, North Syria, South-West Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for close shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3; Schmidt 1937: Nos. H2682 (clay, unperforated, Hissar III), H2582 (clay, Hissar III), H3546 (lapis-lazuli bead, perforated Hissar III). The motif and engraving style do not occur at Hissar III. Horned animal heads are a very common motif especially in the Gawra/early Uruk period when they are represented in various numbers and layouts as the only base motif or as filling motifs. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 267, Nos. 279, 291, 292 (impressions, Tepe Gawra, level XI A, XI/X A). The depiction of a lone horned head in "point group 1" layout is rare. For similar engraving style of horned moufflon heads cf. ibid.: Nos. 480 (round impression, Tell Qaling Aga), 579 (gable, Tell Seyh, later Chalcolithic period); Buchanan 1981: No. 66 (gable seal, North Syria).



382

**Object:** white-cream limestone on green-turquoise under level, 20x20x14 mm. Low conoid with very rounded contours and pointed top with rounded contour and perforation near top (close to low handled seal); round convex base. Fairly large perforation (one end: 5mm., other end: 4x5mm.).

**Technique:** deep, wide linear cuts and gouging with large rounded drills with blunt or rounded edges; round perforation on one side and ovoid perforation on other side drilled from both sides, reaching back, with narrow "tunnel".

**Description:** diagonal central line with three short, ovoid-like rotating lines on both sides and drilled dot in center of one side.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th millennium (or beginning of 3rd millennium), Gawra/early Uruk period (or later Uruk period), North Iraq, Syria, Anatolia, (or Western Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** uncommon shape developed from Halaf period conoids. Pointed conoids reappear in the end of the later Ubaid period and Gawra/early Uruk period in Northern glyptic. However, then they are usually higher and with a flat base. For various close shapes from different periods cf. WFC Nos. 169, 194, 376. The rotating layout of the present piece base design is a linear variation and adaptation of "point groups 3 or 3m" symmetrical triangular rotating layouts. These two layouts are a feature of Gawra/early Uruk North Iraq glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 264, Abbs. 7, 34.4, 8, Tab. 4, Nos. 538, 539 (Tepe Gawra). The engraving technique is most typical of

later Uruk period glyptic. However, in a less wider cut and with smaller drilled dots it is occasionally found already in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. *ibid.*, Abb. 41.4 (Tepe Gawra, level XI). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 27 (small hemispheroid, bought Merza, perhaps from Tell Bashar); Keel-Leu 1991: No. 15 (handled seal, Luristan, Susa B or C); Schmidt 1937: No. H4375 (button seal, Hissar I); Erlenmeyer 1979: No. 247.2 (collared hemispheroid, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period).

## 8. Gabled seals

The **gable form** is the most popular seal form in North Syria and Anatolia during the late 5th to early 3rd millennium. Most gable seals in public and private collections do not come from stratified excavations, thus, there is a problem regarding their dating to a narrow chronological range. For a list of the excavated, on ground finds and published gables from museums and private collections cf. Mazzoni 1980: 58-62. The 4th millennium is seen by most scholars as the apogee of the gable seal. However, the initial usage and range of date are a bone of contention. Cf. Nyns 1984: 13 (second half of the 4th millennium); Buchanan 1981: 18 and Buchanan/Moorey 1984: XIV, 12-3 (late 5th to early 3rd millennium, the height of their production is in the first half of the 4th millennium); Homes-Fredericq 1970: 13-36 (Ubaid and Uruk Periods); Keel-Leu 1991: 27 (ca. 4200-3000, Ubaid 4 to end of Chalcolithic era). According to Buchanan/Moorey 1984: 13: "These seals are all made of a black or greenish-black, shining stone, probably chlorite or serpentine. They are generally rectangular with the ridge of the gable running along the length of the seal above the perforation. A few are oval shaped". According to Erlenmeyer 1989: 21 "It bears a design only on its face... Normally its face will be roughly rectangular". Buchanan/Moorey 1984: XIV state that "The engraving on these seals is often deep, sharp, and angular, whilst some are of considerable size... Reliable archaeological evidence for the history of gable seals is scarce and scattered. An important group excavated by Wooley at Tell-esh-Sheikh in the Amuq valley... The associated pottery indicates a date in the Amuq E horizon... approximately contemporary with Gawra level XIII. The earliest of such seals had geometric designs and figured designs began to emerge in the Gawra levels XIII-XII range. Typical gable seals were manufactured until at least the later 4th millennium... gable seals with geometric designs are relatively rare in excavation reports... (they) indicate that the gable developed locally from earlier forms.... Figured gables are widely reported from sites in Syria and deep into Anatolia, among which the Amuq sites, 'Atshana, Ugarit, Hama, Neirab, Brak, Tarsus, Ymuk Tepe and Acemhoyuk may be noted.... Gables were also imported to Gawra. The distribution of the gable seal may be extended by including those sites where examples appear out of context...". Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: 12-3; Homes-Fredericq 1970: 48; Caldwell 1975: 137; Doumet 1992: 103. Von Wickede rightly suggests that the gable seal developed out of the square, elongated pearl seal of Ubaid 3 period. He

believes that the earliest prototypes of the gable seal belong to Ubaid 4 period: "The elongated rectangular gable seal perforated on short axis developed in the Gawra period out of the Ubaid 4 gables with perforation on long axis. This type of gable seal is the most prominent type of seal during the Gawra/early Uruk period in the Syrian-Anatolian area. Its use in the later Uruk period is contestable", Von Wickede 1990: 258-9 (translated from German).

The gabled pearl seal, gabled hemispheroid, and small size gable seal, as well as the gable seals decorated with geometric designs are the earliest. The WFC has a fairly large number of small gables with geometric designs. A few exemplify the transition and development of the gable seal from other seal forms. These are documented in the present catalogue in earlier chapters. Although most of the WFC gables are made of dark black-green serpentine stones, a significant number are made of deep-red serpentine or white marble. Cf. WFC Nos. 383, 386, 400, 403.

### 8a. Small gables



383

**Object:** white marble with light brown patina on base, 16x13.5x6mm. Gable seal with fairly rounded top gable back and slightly convex, rectangular base with angular and rounded corners. Large perforation (5mm.) forming angle notches on base, on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size drills with pointed edge.

**Description:** irregular line-filled wide cross formed by double lines with parallel strokes in wide "quadrants" and angle-filled with one angle in one short "quadrant".

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid or Gawra/early Uruk periods (Amuq F horizon), North Syria, East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape is an early example of the gable seal with short axis perforation. The nearest parallels to base design are found in later Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 236 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level XIII), Abb. 41.2 (Tepe Gawra, level XII). The Gawra or later Uruk periods gable seals decorated with cross designs usually depict the simple, symmetrical "point group 4mm" angle-cross layout. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 380:1 (sub-gable with round base, re-worked in modern times? purchased in the Amuq area, said to come from Chatal Huyuk, Amuq F or G), 2, (broken base, probably Amuq F). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 131 (bought near Antioch), 132 (bought probably North Syria); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 178.7 (larger).



384

146

**Object:** black serpentine, 14x8x7mm.. Gable seal, sub-rectangular base with rounded short sides, rounded corners and wide notch on one wide side. Perforation (4mm.) near base, on shortaxis.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size drill.

**Description:** irregular grid criss-cross design. Parallel vertical lines evenly spaced crossed by five straight and diagonal lines.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria-Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** size and shape indicate that this piece is an early example of the gable with short axis perforation. Design close to WFC Nos. 221, 225 (small pieces).



385

**Object:** light brown marble with few cream spots, 14x12x7.5mm. Gable seal, rectangular base with angular and rounded corners and angle notch below one perforation hole. Perforation (4mm.) near base, on shortaxis.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size and thin drills; perforation from both sides with rounded drill narrowing in center of perforation "tunnel".

**Description:** irregular line-filled "cross". Two slightly diagonal lines crossing each other in center and crossed by three parallel lines in center with few strokes from edge. Irregular and debased(?) line-filled cross or stylized scorpion.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria-Anatolia, Amuq F horizon.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape typical of Gawra/early Uruk period. For similar careless linear design cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1990: fig. 191:8 (gable seal, Amuq F); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 180.8. For stylized scorpions on gables cf. ibid.: Nos. 180.9, 181.5; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 125-7.



386

**Object:** red-brown serpentine, 11x10x5.5mm. Gable seal with large inlay(?) depression (7x6mm.) on one side of back; square base with angular corners. Perforation (3mm.) on shortaxis.

**Technique:** linear cut with sharp edged drill.

**Description:** small triangular stroke within square with extended upper line (temple?) within square.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria-Anatolia (or North-East Iran?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 385 above. For gabled hemispheroid with one drilled hole for inlay on both sides of gable back cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 42.2 (Tepe Gawra, level XI A - XI/XA). The arrangement of a square within square as base design is known already in Aceramic Neolithic glyptic from south Syria. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 6 (pendant, Tell Bouqras), 10 (gypsum impression, Tell al-Kaum). The motif reappears in later prehistoric glyptic on small button seals from Hissar. Cf. Schmidt 1937: Nos. H4487, (identical base design) H4717, H4488 (similar designs). The present small gable seal may, therefore, represent the latent(?) continuation of the motive in Syrian glyptic and may also point to glyptic connections and ties between Syria-Anatolia and North-East Iran in the 4th millennium. For similar design on tabloid cf. WFC No. 414.



387

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 19x13.5x6mm. Gable seal with truncated back on sides of perforation and rounded top; sub-rectangular base with round curved short sides, concave long sides and rounded corners. Comparatively large perforation (ovoid on one end: 3x5mm., drilled on base; round on other end: 5mm., in center), on shortaxis.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin, pointed edge drill and small round drill.

**Description:** two angles with drilled dots and small diagonal on ends (birds or plants?) in row with smaller, similar motif on lowered left.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium (or slightly earlier), Gawra/early Uruk period, Amuq F horizon, Syria-Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** an early version of the gable seal with short axis perforation. For a more symmetrical gable of similar proportions and base design cf. Braidwood /Braidwood 1960: fig. 380:9 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq F = Von Wickede 1990: later Chalcolithic); WFC No. 392 (with lists).

The following four small serpentine gable seals (WFC Nos. 388-91) are of an almost identical shape and size and are very similar to WFC Nos. 385-6. Three are decorated on base with an identical design (WFC Nos. 388-90) and the fourth with a very similar design (WFC No. 391). The four pieces originate in the same cultural area (Amuq F horizon) and may even be the product of the same workshop.



388

**Object:** dark grey-green serpentine, 13.5x9x7mm. Gable seal, rectangular base with angular and slightly rounded corners. Perforation (3mm.) below top of gable on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with fairly wide blunt drill.

**Description:** four radial strokes forming quatrefoil flower pattern.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Amuq F horizon, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the rotating quatrefoil design of this seal is a simplified version of the more symmetrical and developed floral designs common mainly in later Ubaid glyptic but also in Gawra/early Uruk glyptic. In the later period the petals are frequently hatched. For examples cf. Von Wicked 1990: Nos. 257 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII), 514 (gabled hemispheroid, Hassek Hoyuk, later Ubaid period), 515 (low hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 380:7 (large gable seal, Dhahab, possibly Amuq F), 8 (small gable seal, Dhahab, possibly Amuq F or G). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 79 (gabled pearl with oval base, bought Jerablus, perhaps from Bostepe, West Mesopotamia), 80 (rhomboid pearl, bought Merza, perhaps from Tell Basher); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 177.6 (gable seal, hatched leaf design with trefoil patterns in same engraving style as present gable), 181.9 (gable seal). For gable seals of similar size decorated with zoomorphic designs cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 103-4, 106, 110, 125; Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 177.3, 181.2, 6. For a small gable seal decorated with geometric design cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 132.



389

**Object:** red-brown serpentine, 13.5x9x7mm. Gable seal, rectangular base with angular corners. Small perforation (2mm.) below gable on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with fairly wide blunt drill.

**Description:** four radial strokes forming quatrefoil flower pattern.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Amuq F horizon, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 388 above.



390

**Object:** dark brown serpentine, 14x11x6mm. Gable seal, sub-rectangular base slightly slanting with angular and rounded corners and small angle notch below one perforation. Perforation (3mm.) below gable reaching base on one side. Broken and chipped on base on short axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with fairly wide blunt drill.

**Description:** four radial strokes forming quatrefoil flower pattern.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Amuq F horizon, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC Nos. 388-9 above.



391

**Object:** dark brown serpentine, 14x10x7mm. Gable seal, rectangular base with angular corners. Perforation (3mm.) below gable on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with fairly wide blunt drill and narrower drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** six radiating strokes from center forming two groups of trefoil or six-petaled flower.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Amuq F horizon, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type similar to WFC Nos. 388-90 above. Design a variation of "point group 6" layout adjusted to a rectangular base shape. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: Abb. 7 and Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 177.6 (gable seal).



392

**Object:** black serpentine, 37.5x20.5x7mm. Gable with low back, rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (one end: 5mm.; other end: 4x5mm.) reaching back top, on short axis. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** base: deep linear cut with angular drill with pointed end; back: crude shallow linear and curved engraving.

**Description:** back: frontal human head (balloon-like) with large, slanting, oval eyes, double line nose and slanting neck (or shoulder) lines, on one side of gable back. Bird facing left above uneven line with linear strokes below forming unidentified (gibberish) script, on other side of gable back. Base: chevron row with one small center line in last angle.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period (Amuq F horizon), Syria-Anatolia; Later or Modern.

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape for early North Uruk period gables in the Western Syria-Anatolia area. For low gables of similar or identical shape decorated with zoomorphic designs cf. Buchanan 1981: Nos. 44, 64; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 88-9, 108-109, 112-3. "Band group p1m" layout formed of angular or zigzag lines in rows is a common decoration motif on gables. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 191:6 (Judeideh, Amuq F), 380:9 (probably Amuq F). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 81 (gable?, rows of zigzags [in relief]). Gable seals were not decorated on their backs in prehistoric periods. The back decoration on this seal is by a different hand than the base design. It is a later addition, either from a later period in antiquity, or modern.



393

**Object:** dark red serpentine, 15x12.5x9.5mm. Fairly small gable, rectangular base with angular corners and one rounded corner. Very small perforation on one side (1.5mm.) and larger on other side (4mm.) below top, off center, on short axis. One base corner broken, chipped on back.

**Technique:** linear, curved and drilled dot cut with medium size and thin drills and small round drill; perforation from one side narrowing to small tunnel and hole on other side.

**Description:** unidentified motif. Human figure(?) in center standing (or walking to right), right hand lowered near body, left hand raised holding unidentified object (net [?]) or large animal head [?] with belt or sword, within unidentified curved motif (snake, three legged horned animal [goat?] or net), with filling motif and small drilled dot.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Chalcolithic era, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Ubaid period, Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape similar to or the same as WFC Nos. 385-6, 388-91, but slightly larger. Material and colour same as WFC Nos. 386, 403. Engraving technique close to pyramid WFC No. 372. For similar linear engraving technique combined with small drilled dots cf. Van Wicked 1990: Abb. 41.4 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII), Nos. 544 (rhomboid pearl, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period), 555 (hemispheroid, Tell Asmar, later Chalcolithic era). Cf. also the similar technique on hemispheroids in Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 177.8; Buchanan 1981: Nos. 71, 72; WFC No. 348.



394

**Object:** dark brown-black serpentine, 19.5x17.5x7.5mm. Sub-gable with irregular back: rounded on shorter side and slanting on longer side; rectangular base with angular corners. Perforation (4mm.) on short axis, parallel to design. Chipped on base.

**Technique:** very deep linear cut with large angular drill.

**Description:** human figure facing left kneeling (?) to right, left hand lowered, right hand raised holding(?) large wing-spread bird or large implement or irregular trefoil.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Chalcolithic era, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape a variation of the gable seal. For gable with design parallel to perforation cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 585 (stair-like gable, Sargarab, later Chalcolithic era); WFC No. 328. Engraving style similar to ibid.: No. 581 (Tarsus, later Chalcolithic era). For two or

three human figures on gable seals, cut in an identical, similar or coarser and sharper engraving styles cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 118 (bought Aleppo), 119 (bought Deve Huyuk), 120 (identical type of figures and cut, bought Aleppo); Von der Osten 1957: Nos. 52, 53. Similar motifs to that of the "bird" or "floral" motif on the present gable seal do occur on some gable seals. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 380.10 (above and below gazelle, Judeideh, Amuq G or H); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 122 (bought Resm el-Khadir, North Syria). Cf. also the large bird in Homès-Frédericq 1970: fig. 111 (large circular impression, cultic scene?, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A).



395

**Object:** black-green serpentine, 26x21x8.5mm. Low gable, rectangular base with rounded corners and angle shaped notches below perforation holes. Large perforation (one side: 5x6mm.; other side: 6x7mm.) reaching back and base, on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with thin, sharp drill and medium size drill.

**Description:** antelope facing right with four legs and large narrow chevron (snake?) behind, or double-headed horned beast with antelope head facing right and goat head facing left.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** schematic depiction. For gables decorated on base with horned animals in a similar linear cut (with or without chevron filling motifs) cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 253:8(?), 9 (identical shape), 11 (Judeideh, Amuq G level but probably earlier). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 49 (similar shape, North Syria); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 101 (bought Damascus, said to be from the North), 102 (bought Aleppo), 103 (bought Merza, perhaps from Tell Bashar), 104 (same source as No. 103). For depictions of double or multi-headed horned beasts cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191:7 (gable, Judeideh, Amuq G level but probably later Chalcolithic period, p. 253: "...the general effect of the design, when reversed is of a multi-headed horned beast"); Homès-Frédericq 1970: No. 157 (bone, carinated sub-hemispheroid, naturalistic depiction, Tepe Gawra, level X, Gawra/early Uruk period). Cf also Keel-Leu 1991: No. 16 (hemispheroid, Susa A or B); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 106 (gable, bought Damascus); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 177.3, 178.9 (gable, similar engraving style); Doumet 1992: No. 229 (gable, double-headed horned moufflon with both heads to left, filling motifs, similar engraving style but more coherent design cut with wide and sharp drills); Sternberg, 1994: No. 672 (four headed horned moufflon, similar engraving style).



149

396

**Object:** blackish-greenish serpentine, 28x25x9mm. Low gable, rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (4mm.) below gable, on short axis.

**Technique:** deep linear and broad cut with angular, blunt and thin drills.

**Description:** monkey facing right with long raised tail, bird above, chevron in front and unidentified motif below.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for style, motif and material cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 178.6 (gable). Cf. also the long-tailed animal in Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 331, fig. 253:8, (gable, Amuq G level, but probably later Chalcolithic era) and the animal on the gable hemispheroid from Tepe Gawra in Homès-Frédericq 1970: fig. 132 (squarish impression, level XI, Gawra/early Uruk period). For style, material and identical filling motifs cf. Doumet 1992: 103 (for the "V" or "W" filling motifs), No. 228 (standing or walking moufflon or ram).



397

**Object:** black serpentine, 28x20x14mm. Gable, sub-rectangular base with rounded corners, slightly curved in on one long side. Large perforation (one end: 6x8mm.; other end: 5x6mm.), on short axis.

**Technique:** uneven deep and shallow linear and rounded cut with medium size angular drill, thin drill with pointed edge and rounded edged drill; perforation from both sides narrowing to slightly narrower, round perforation tunnel.

**Description:** three legged animal to left, lowered head and tail.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period or beginning of later Uruk period, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for three legged linear animals on gables cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 253:8, 9 (Amuq G level, but probably later Chalcolithic era); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 89 (bought Aleppo). For linear



398

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 29x25x10.5mm. Gable, rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (5mm.) off center, near base, on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep broad cut and linear strokes with wide, blunt drill, medium size and thin drills with sharp edges.

**Description:** unidentified design of two identical motifs in back to back mirror design. Reclining animals with raised head turned back, lines and strokes on body(?) and additional strokes above, or simplified boats(?) or ladder design with additional strokes(?).

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period or beginning of later Uruk period, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape most common in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Figurative representations of two identical motifs in the symmetrical "band group p1a" layout are also a typical feature of this period. They continue to occur on figurative impressions of the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 261, Tab. 4. For a two animals design in "band group p1a" layout on gables cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 253:11 (engraving style much more linear, Judeideh, Amuq G level, probably later Chalcolithic era); Von Wickede 1990: No. 576 (similar engraving style with strokes on animals' body, Norsuntepe, later Chalcolithic era); Pittman/Aruz 1988: No. 7 (gable, with many small projections on backs of boars, plant in field, Amuq G, ca. 3600-3000). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 180.5. For two ladders identical to each other depicted in straight lines and two triangular gouges above on a gable seal cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 130 (bought Aleppo). The boat motif is not found on gable seals. A representation of animals with small strokes on their bodies is a stylistic feature of the Gawra/early Uruk period and is frequently found on gable seals. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 267, Nos. 575, 576. Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 58.



399

**Object:** black serpentine, 21x18.5x8mm. Gable, rectangular base with angular and slightly rounded corners. Perforation (4x5mm.) off center, on short axis. Broken on left base and back.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear and angular cut with broad angular drill and thin drill.

**Description:** antelope standing to left with head turned, three legs, and few linear strokes in front.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria (or Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the depiction of a single horned animal in "point group 1" layout goes back to the Neolithic era and is found in all the subsequent prehistoric glyptic traditions, as well as on gable seals. For the closest example on a small gable cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 582 (identical cut technique, Tabara Akrad, later Chalcolithic era).



400

**Object:** opaque white-cream limestone, 37.5x27x14mm. Gable, rectangular base with rounded corners. Large perforation (6mm. wide), on short axis. Top broken above perforation, chipped on base. Design on short axis opposite to gable back.

**Technique:** deep and shallow linear cut with broad rounded drill, thin drill with pointed edge and small round edged drill; perforation from both sides not in straight line forming slightly twisting tunnel.

**Description:** moufflon or ram standing to left, arced horns, four legs, with snake (or line) below, chevron with drilled dot in angle and small stroke above.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period or beginning of later Uruk period, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for the motif on gable seals cf. WFC No. 399 above. On most gables the design is not parallel to perforation. For gables decorated with designs parallel to perforation cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 585 (similar animals, Sargarab, later Chalcolithic era); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 119, 127, 130; Keel-Leu 1991: No. 34; WFC No. 345. For the motif on gable seals cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 577 (Tell Seyh, later Chalcolithic era), 578 (Norsuntepe, later Chalcolithic era); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 177.3; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 90 (bought Cilicia), 91 (bought near Antioch). Engraving style close to WFC. Nos. 337, 351, 419 (hemispheroids).



401

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 39.5x31.5x14mm. Gable, rectangular base with rounded corners. Large ovoid perforation (close to pear-shape) (6x9mm.) drilled into top of gable, on short axis. Broken on top left and base corner, chipped on base and on top near one perforation hole.

**Technique:** deep, broad, flat cut with blunt drill and fairly deep linear cut with medium size and thin drills.

**Description:** reclining gazelle (antelope), facing left, with bird or chevron above.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for reclining horned animals cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 579 (Tell Seyh, later Chalcolithic era). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 57 (same engraving style, laying goat, snake(?) before it); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 178.2 (goat), 180.1 (gazelle, similar engraving style); Buchanan/Moorey 1989: Nos. 93 (goat?, bought Kara Huyuk near Nizip, identical broadly cut style). For similar broadly cut engraving style, cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 580 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq F level). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 48; Keel-Leu 1991: No. 32 (Amuq F horizon); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 181.7; Doumet 1992: No. 229.

period, Syria, South-East Anatolia

**Discussion/comparanda:** the figurative representation of animals (or humans) in "band group p1" layout is a feature of Gawra/early Uruk glyptic. It is regularly depicted on round, squarish or rectangular impressions of the period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 261. The "band group p1" depiction of horned animals is a common motif on large gable seals such as the present piece, but with variations as to type of horned animals, engraving style and appearance of border. Cf. ibid.: No. 584 (two horned animals, same stand and hoofs, similar engraving technique, Hama, later Chalcolithic era); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 103 (large rectangular impression, three goats with same hoofs, pellets in field, without chevron border, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 44 (three antelopes: two "V"-shapes and three pellets in field); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 83 (three goats with additional motives, without chevron border, identical engraving style and hoofs, bought near Marash), 84 (three gazelles without chevron border, similar engraving style, bought Aleppo), 85 (three antelopes without chevron border, sharper, coarser engraving style, bought Beirut), 86 (two antelopes without chevron border, similar engraving style, bought Aleppo), 87 (two antelopes without chevron border, thinner engraving style, bought Aleppo); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 179.1 (two stags with similar filling motifs, hoofs and engraving style, without chevron border), 177.1 (two gazelles, with similar hoofs, without chevron border); Doumet 1992: No. 228 (three goats with similar hoofs, without chevron border).



402

**Object:** black serpentine, 42.5x38.5x10.5mm. Low gable back, sub-rectangular base with rounded corners. Large perforation (one end: 5x6mm.; other end: 6x7mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly shallow broad, flat cut with blunt drill and fairly deep linear cut with medium size drills with triangular edge and pointed edge.

**Description:** two four legged antelopes standing to left, one behind the other with small ovoid motif below horns, within angle or small triangle border.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk



403

**Object:** deep purple-red serpentine, present size: 57x30x20mm. Large high gable, rectangular base with rounded(?) corners, design partly parallel to perforation. Large sidewise ovoid perforation (close to pear-like perforation) (one end: 10x8mm.; other end: 13x7mm.), on short axis. Multiple breaks on back, near perforation hole and around base. Design in opposite direction to perforation.

**Technique:** very deep linear cut with large angular (or triangular) drills and thinner drill with sharp, pointed edge. Probably reworked when cleaned.

**Description:** design difficult to "read." Two or three

animals with scorpion or two birds. Large sheep or goat, sidewise in center, facing left, three legs, long neck, large horns curved back. On same line in center: three legged animal, facing left, with lowered head(?), short horns or partially broken off horns. Two birds, scorpion or floral motif above. "Horns" of sidewise animal could be either that of head of animal, or part of scorpion above. If second interpretation, then central animal is with long neck, unhorned, raised head and third, smaller, two legged animal, partially broken off, sidewise behind it.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, or beginning of later Uruk period, Syria, Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** sidewise ovoid perforation probably indicates the direction of the tie of the suspension cord of this gable: that is upwards to right with the gable top to right. For similar cut technique and incoherent design on gable of close shape cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 581 (Tarsus, later Chalcolithic era). For a more coherent double register composition with three horned animals, each placed sidewise in a separate register, on a gable seal cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 82 (similar engraving style with broader animal bodies, bought Jerablus, perhaps from Bostepe, West Mesopotamia). For a more coherent design of two "caprids", one above the other, on a similar sided gable seal, cf. Doumet 1992: No. 232 (more detailed engraving style with various drills). For similar engraving style of schematic animals on gable seals, cf. Buchanan 1981: Nos. 46 (two animals), 51 (antelope, arrow(?) over back, plant(?) at rear below). Cf. also Doumet 1992: No. 228.

## 9. Tabloids and rectangular seals



404

**Object:** black-brown serpentine, 9.5x7x4mm. Thin tabloid. Small perforation (2mm.) in center, near base, on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with fine, thin drill.

**Description:** side A: grid criss-cross design with uneven spacing of crossing lines. Side B: two parallel lines lengthwise, evenly spaced.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Ubaid period or Uruk period, North Iraq, North Syria (Tell Brak horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** a tabloid of such minute size is rare. The short axis perforation probably indicates a date not earlier than the later Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Tab. 3. For the criss-cross "plane group p4mm" design cf. Ibid.: No. 503 (lentoid pearl, Tepe Gawra, later Ubaid period). For similar layouts on tabloids cf. WFC Nos. 271 (back design), 272 (base design). Small tabloids decorated with simple geometric designs on the back were found in Tell Brak "Eye Temple", cf. Mallowan 1947: 122-23. However,

none of these Tell Brak tabloids depict criss-cross designs.



405

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 12.5x12x6mm. "Cushion-tabloid", thin plain square back, square base with round "cushion" in relief. Perforation (2.5x3mm.) on thin back.

**Description:** base: square groove around "cushion".

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr period), North Iraq, North Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the shape seems like a combination of the squarish tabloid popular in the Uruk period and the low hemispheroid. The undecorated base probably indicates a late Uruk period date. The use of this piece as a proper seal is doubtful.



406

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 11.5x11x5mm. Tabloid, squarish base. Perforation (2.5x3mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** open-ended cut with flint drill point backwards and forwards to form grooves covering whole field (side A); deep, sharp linear cut, broad cut and small drilled dot cut with angular drill with pointed edge, large blunt drill and small round edged drill.

**Description:** side A: cross filled with four lines in quadrants, continuing to sides. Side B: sub-human figure with arms raised to sides, tail to side (or tortoise from back)

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, North Iraq, North Syria, (Tell Brak horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** similar small tabloids engraved on one or both sides with identical or similar motifs and engraving technique are common in Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period. Cf. especially Mallowan 1947: Pl. XX, Nos. 31, 32, 33 (identical shape and design as present piece side A), 34 (same engraving style as present tabloid side B). Small tabloids engraved on both sides were found also at Tepe Giyan, cf. Herzfeld 1933: 102, Abb. 25, Pl. II 2340, 2344; Amiet 1985: Pl. 7, Nos. 146, 148. Cf. also Vollenweider 1967: No. 9 (a. geometric design, maybe human figure and two caprids; b. zigzag lines, from Iran, probably from Tepe Giyan). For geometric motifs in similar engraving style to that of present piece side A, however, on differently shaped

stones, cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 176.1 (identical design on square based handled seal); Schmidt 1937: No. H4392 (round base button seal, Hissar I). For same "tortoise" or similar "lizard" as on present tabloid side B cut in same engraving technique on kidney shaped seals from Tell Brak, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. XVII, Nos. 14 (with other motifs, G. 188), 15 (with other motifs, G. 187); Von Wicked 1990: No. 607 (with other motifs, G. 186). Cf. also WFC Nos. 353-4 and *ibid.*; Abb. 39.1 (hemispheroid, same motif, different engraving style, Hakalan and Dum Gar Pacina).



407

**Object:** light grey, cream limestone, 11x10x5mm. Tabloid, longer sides slightly inward, sub-rectangular base with angular corners. Perforation (3mm.) on inward sides, on short axis.

**Technique:** drilled dots linked by fairly broad linear cut with small round end drill and medium size rounded drill; cut and polished around perforation holes (cut and hole: 6x5mm.).

**Description:** reclining moufflon or dog facing right.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, North Iraq, North Syria, (Tell Brak horizon).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for tabloids of same shape, size and engraving style depicting animals cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. XVIII, Nos. 10-11, 12-13, 16-19 (No. 17 - similar individual reclining caprid, Tell Brak). For animals in same engraving style cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 599 (hemispheroid with drilled hole in back, same motif, Tell Brak, later Uruk/"Jamdet-Nasr" period). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 233.2 (hemispheroid, dog), 242.2 (hemispheroid, two dogs?), 243.1 (tabloid, two dogs tête-bêche), 243.2 (tabloid, two scorpions, similar size).



First perforation side



Second perforation side



Side B



Side C

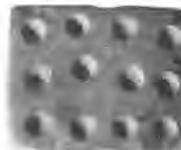
408

**Object:** grey-green serpentine, 25x20x10.5mm. Tabloid with slightly convex perforation sides contours, flat back and base. Two perforations (one perforation: 6x5mm.; other perforation: one end: 4x5mm., other end: 4mm.), on long side.

**Description:** side A (wide): undecorated. Side B (narrow): lengthwise line. Side C (wide): small line or stroke on lower side. Side D (narrow): small drilled dot near edge.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, Syria, North Iraq, Syria, (Amuq G horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape is close to that of straight-angle pearls of the Ubaid period, from which it probably developed. The few marks on this piece probably indicate that the manufacturer originally intended to produce a proper seal. However, this intention was abandoned. Tabloids with two perforations were probably used as spacing beads to keep two strings in place. For plain tabloids or close forms with two or more perforations from Amuq G phase, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 252: 21 (two perforations on short axis), 22 (three perforations on short axis), X3386 (two perforations). Cf. also Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 370 (decorated oval ellipsoid pearl, two perforations on long axis, Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 54 (decorated tabloid, two perforations on short axis, "bought at Marash").



409

**Object:** cream, dark grey marble, 24x19x8mm. Tabloid. Perforation (5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep (2mm.), even drilled dots (3mm.) with round rotating drill with narrowing round end; perforation also with round rotating drill.

**Description:** twelve drilled holes symmetrically arranged in rows forming grid design of three lengthwise rows and four short wise rows.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably later Uruk period), South Iran or Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the large, perfect shaped tabloid with the short axis perforation evolves in the Gawra/early Uruk period and becomes one of the most popular seal shapes during the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 259, Tab. 3. The drilled dot motif as the only base motif occurs in the Halaf period on other shapes and reappears in the ending later Ubaid period. Cf. *ibid.*: 268, Abb. 43.1-4 (No. 1: pyramid with ovoid base, identical design and number of drilled dots, end of late Ubaid period). Tabloids decorated with many drilled dots arranged in the same "plane group p4mm" layout occur in the later Uruk



## 410

**Object:** grey serpentine, 24.5x19x5.5mm. Tabloid. Perforation (5mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep (2mm), even drilled dots (3mm.) with round rotating drill with narrowing round end; perforation also with rotating drill.

**Description:** six drilled holes in two uneven "lines", one drilled dot in each corner and two off center.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, South Iran or Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 409 above. For tabloids with six drilled depressions arranged in similar uneven layouts cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 391, 393, 396 (Susa C).



## 411

**Object:** grey, cream-brown serpentine, 21x19.5x9mm. Rectangular tabloid with rounded corners (from ware) Perforated (one end: 5.5x6mm.; other end: 4x5mm.), on short axis. Two large and deep drilled holes (one: 4mm.; other: 4x3mm.) in center of side A reaching tunnel of short axis perforation. These two drilled holes are linked by an elongated broad cut. Since these side A perforations do not disturb the design on side A, they were probably cut at the same time as the design on this side. Worn.

**Technique:** sharp linear cut with thin drill with pointed edge (side A); drilled dots of similar size (1mm. or 1.5mm.) and same shallow depth (1mm.), two depressions linked together by one broad linear cut with small rounded end drill; side A perforations drilled first vertically and then at angle to sides; broad cut linking them, narrower than perforation holes, with imprints of cord marks on stone left from long use (or strong tie) of cord.

**Description:** side A: four schematic quadrupeds arranged in square formation around field with animals' legs toward edges of stone and filling motifs. Two-headed animal with four legs: small horned head or ear lowered, facing left (goat or wild ass), long horned head facing right (antelope); chevron with bird(?) above to right; small two legged antelope facing left; two parallel lines

continuing central line between perforation holes; small three legged moufflon or antelope facing left; linear motif; small three legged stag to left with head turned back(?); two parallel lines continuing central line between perforation holes. Side B: twenty two drilled holes in five asymmetrical lines, two larger drilled holes linked together by broad linear line in center.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or slightly later), Western Iran (Tepe Giyan or Tepe Djaffarabad horizons?), (or Syria, North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for close shape and its popularity during the later Uruk period cf. WFC No. 409 above. The location of the double perforation on narrow sides and wide side A is unique for tabloids. The nearest excavated parallel occurs on a Halaf period small square "button" seal. Von Wickede (1990: 257, No. 186 [secondary perforation, Ras Shamra]) deducted from the secondary perforation on this early button seal the hypothesis that disc and tabloid seals may have originated from button seals. The present tabloid shows that in it this form of perforation was intentional, for the drillings on side A do not interfere with the design which is cut around it. The tabloid was probably tied with a cord to some object. Engraving styles on both sides of present tabloid occur on tabloids, hemispheroids and pearls from the Uruk period, however, usually not on the same stone. As stated above (cf. WFC No. 406), the smaller tabloids from Tell Bark and Tepe Giyan are frequently decorated on both sides. Cf. also a tabloid from Tepe Gawra, level VIII, decorated with large caprids in a more naturalistic style in Hommel-Fredericq 1970: fig. 190 (transitional period between Uruk [that is early Uruk] and Jamdet Nasr periods). None of the Susa tabloids (either small or large) found in archeological context and decorated on one side with drilled holes are engraved on the other side. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 390-8 (No. 390: decorated on one side with seventeen drilled holes, Susa C=Jamdet Nasr period), Von Wickede 1990: No. 609 (kidney, fifteen drilled holes in similar asymmetry, Tell Brak, late Uruk period); WFC No. 409. The zoomorphic "point group 4" layout decorating side A of present tabloid is characteristic only of the Uruk periods and occurs especially in the later Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: 265, Tab. 4, Nos. 318 (square impression, four reclining animals, more naturalistic engraving style, Tepe Gawra, level VIII), 593 (high hemispheroid, three reclining animals, more naturalistic engraving style, Larsa). For animals engraved in a similar linear style as on side A of present piece cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 138-9 (hemispheroids, No. 138 - Tepe Djaffarabad, Susa A), 293-4 (collared pearls, Susa C). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: Nos. 92 (oval pearl, spiral of animals [blobs in field "group point 4" layout], Southern Mesopotamia and Susiana, first half of 4th millennium), 95 (collared pearl, two schematic animals, Southern Mesopotamia and Susiana, first half of 4th millennium), 105 (oval hemispheroid mace head, spiral design of stag, deer(?), insect(?), bird and two ibexes, drillings in field, Southern Mesopotamia and Susiana, second half of 4th millennium); Erlenmeyer, 1989: Nos. 204.2 (tabloid decorated on obverse and reverse: two moufflons and two goats with infilling motifs, Syria, North Mesopotamia and Iran), 228 (ovoid, Late Uruk/Jamdet Nasr period).



412

**Object:** white, cream marble with grey-brown and dark grey veins, 30x16x9mm. Tabloid, plain rectangular back and rectangular base with angular corners. Comparatively small perforation (2x3mm.) near base, on short axis, parallel to design.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with broad, blunt drill linked to drilled holes with large round end drill and thinner, shallower linear cut with medium size drill.

**Description:** crouching or reclining gazelle, diagonally placed on top, facing right; water bird with legs bent, facing left, below; among them gouged and linear filling motifs.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, South Iraq, Susiana or more likely North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 215 (Tepe Gawra, level VII, Jamdet Nasr period); WFC No. 409. Similar, but more squarish tabloids usually depicting two animals tête-bêche (band group p1a layout) engraved in a close technique with more connected drillings are common in South Iraq and Susiana glyptic of this period and occur also on specimens from Tell Brak. The zoomorphic "band group p1a" layout is most common in the later Ubaid period. Its origins are in the ending later Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 265, Tab. 4, No. 574 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level XII). For tabloids cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 400, 404-7 (Susa C); Delaporte 1920: Nos. S.207, S.211 (from Susa); Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 395 (Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 244.2; Keel-Leu 1991: No. 38 (later Uruk horizon, Mesopotamia or Elam). An even closer engraving style occurs on an earlier half-barrel seal (cf. Amiet 1972: No. 380 [Susa B] and on a broken tabloid (cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 161 [identical engraving style, Tell Brak G126; from "Grey Brick Stratum"]]. Cf. also Doumet 1992: No. 234 (same shape and close engraving style). For a bird engraved in blob and linear style on a smaller tabloid, cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 373 (Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period). The dotted eyes of the animal and water bird on the present tabloid are close to those of the animals decorating a round base gable hemispheroid from Tell Brak, and may indicate a Northern origin. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 565 (later Chalcolithic era, end of later Ubaid period).



413

**Object:** white limestone with brown layer on side, 25x20x9mm. Rectangular tabloid, plain rectangular back and rectangular base. Perforation (5mm.) on short axis. Worn.

**Technique:** drilled holes of various sizes (0.5mm. or 1mm. or 2mm. or 2.5mm. or 3mm.) and depths (0.5mm. or 1mm. or 1.5mm.) drilled with various small drills with round ends, some connected with linear cuts with medium and thin drills; perforation with round rotating drill.

**Description:** bird head and part of body in center, facing left with horned head(?) above. Drilled holes on lower right with short lines or long curved line ending in small triangle (bird head?). Drilled holes with fine, radiating lines or connected drilled holes (stars, crustaceans or bird heads?) on left. Faint quadruped, facing center, in left corner.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, South Iraq, Susiana.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape cf. WFC No. 409. The representation of unclear zoomorphic motifs in a similar or identical engraving technique in radiating layouts is most common in the later Uruk period and is found mainly on seals originating from Southern sites. For examples on hemispheroids and collared pearls cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 299-302 (Susa C); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 224, 231.2 (crustaceans?), 241.2 (ovoid, horned heads or crustaceans), 242.4 (crustaceans?), 245.3 (crustaceans or beaked and horned heads?). For examples on tabloids cf. Amiet 1972: No. 388 (Susa C); Delaporte 1920: No. A.22 (purchased, Sumer or Akkad).



414

**Object:** orange, pink marble with cream encrustation, 28x25x9mm. Tabloid, plain rectangular back and rectangular base with angular corners. Perforated (5mm.) on short axis in opposite direction to design. Recently cleaned.

**Technique:** fairly deep, broad curved linear cut with large, blunt drill; perforation with round, rotating drill.

**Description:** stylized human figure or idol(?) with short, lowered hands, standing within arch (shrine door or

serpent since end of "arch" not meeting base and slightly wider) within squarish frame (shrine door or facade).

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period (or later), East Anatolia (Arslantepe horizon?), or Syria, North Iraq, or Modern.

**Discussion/comparanda:** strange style, perhaps not genuine. However, see the almost identical design on gable seal WFC No. 386 and the engraving style and similar design (duplicated to depict a very schematic insect) in Buchanan 1981: No. 109 (tabloid). For more naturalistic large coiled snakes from the ending later Ubaid period and the Gawra/early Uruk period cf. WFC No. 277. For later Uruk period snakes depicted on their own on with human figures or animals in similar broad cut cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 368, 376, 389, 398, 399 (impressions, Arslantepe). Similar designs but without the central figure occur also on late 2nd millennium seals. Cf. Keel-Leu 1990: 379, No. 1 (Tel Masos, str. III, Palestine, ca. 1250-1100 B.C.).



Side A      Side C

415

**Object:** light brown, orange-brown limestone, 17.5x13x13mm. Rectangular with flat, square perforation side profile, angular and rounded corners (from ware?). Perforation (3mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** shallow, faint linear cut with thin drill.

**Description:** sides A, B, C, D: cross with many short, parallel, diagonal strokes on cross' lines, within open-ended frame.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of late Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq, Syria, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the long axis perforation of this rectangular (bead-seal?) points to an affinity of shape with the straight angle pearls and the long axis perforated tabloids of the Ubaid period. These shapes continue to be made occasionally until the end of the later Chalcolithic era. The recurring framed-cross motif designs on this piece are close to the motif on rectangular WFC No. 417. However, in its use of the open-ended frame and small strokes the present ornament is even closer to an impression from Tepe Gawra. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 264 (round impression, with radiating strokes on edge, Tepe Gawra, lev. XII?). The small strokes on the cross lines are decorative ornaments characteristic of the later Ubaid period. They continue to appear in the Gawra/early Uruk period in areas which have been under the influence of the Ubaid culture and virtually disappear from the later Uruk glyptic repertoire. Cf. ibid.: 263 and rectangular WFC No. 416 below.



416

**Object:** black serpentine, 21x14x12mm. Rectangular cube, rectangular base with angular and rounded corners (from ware?). Comparatively large perforation (6x4mm.) in center of back, on short axis.

**Technique:** deep and regular linear cut with large and medium size drills with angular and pointed edges; shallow, faint strokes and few small drilled dots with medium size and thin drills.

**Description:** back: central deep line with few diagonal strokes off it ("leaf" design), faint parallel and diagonal lines with few diagonal strokes off them ("leaf" design) on both sides. Side A (wide): faint diagonal strokes and small drilled dots or ovals. Side B (narrow): central deep line, two faint and short parallel lines with few diagonal strokes between them on one side of central line. Side C (wide): few faint diagonal strokes and one small drilled dot. Side D (narrow): goat to right (body as deep central line) and few faint strokes below. Base: four parallel lines with few diagonal strokes or small dots off them and irregular cross on top.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, East Anatolia (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** only few examples of rectangular seals occur at any period. Cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: XIV. The shape of the present piece with its short axis perforation and decorative designs probably developed at the same period or at a slightly latter period than the short axis perforated tabloids. This shape does not occur in excavated material before the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 168 (perforated on short axis, two quadrupeds, Tepe Gawra, level X); Von der Osten 1957, fig. 2.37 (Tepe Giyan, EH TG 2505), No. 71. Cf. also WFC No. 417. The geometric designs on back, base (without the cross) and on side B of this piece are all variations of the linear or "leaf" "plane groups p111 and p1m1" layouts. These layouts occur mainly on square or rectangular based impressions or on pearl seals. They are common later Ubaid period motifs which continue to appear also in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 263, Abb. 9, Tab. 4, Nos. 237 (oval impression, Tepe Gawra, lev. XIII), 333 (square impression, Degirmen-tepe, later Ubaid period), 411 (round impression, Arpatchiya, Gawra/early Uruk period), 494 (straight angle lentoid pearl, Tell al-'Uwaili, later Ubaid period), 500 (gable pearl, Tepe Gawra, lev. XIII), Abb. 41.3 (straight angle pearl,

Tepe Gawra, level XI A-VIII). The fact that on the present rectangular seal these layouts appear in a weak, incomplete way, do not always cover the whole surface, and on the base are superimposed with a cross indicate that this piece was not manufactured during the height of popularity of these layouts. For very schematic linear caprids represented in the same "point group 1" layout and in a similar technique and style to that of the caprid on side D of the present piece, however, on hemispheroids cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 60 (bought Deve Huyuk), 61 (bought Aleppo), 62 (bought Asia Minor), 63 (bought Karaj Oren, N. Syria).



417

**Object:** white limestone, 22x16x11mm. Irregular rectangular with rounded corners. Large perforation (one end: 7mm.; other end: 6mm.) on short axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size and thin drills with pointed ends.

**Description:** back and base: cross within rectangular frame. Side C: few diagonal strokes crossing perforation hole.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th-3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period), or later, Syria, South-East Anatolia, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 416 above, but thinner and more tabloid-like. Cf. also Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 212 (smaller, animal, Tepe Gawra, level VII). The present decorative motif on back and base is similar to that decorating the long axis perforated rectangular WFC No. 415, but with a close frame and plain cross lines. The angle-filled cross motif is a very common ornament on small, later Uruk period tabloids decorated on both sides with geometric designs. Cf. ibid. No. 369 (Tell Brak); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 204-6; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 156 (Tell Brak, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period), 157 (Tell Brak G140). For seals decorated with a plain cross within a square frame on close bodied and handled seals cf. WFC Nos. 148-9, 233, 365. Cf. also the plain cross on WFC No. 299. The plain cross motif is one of the geometric motifs which continues to occur on seals during the early Historic period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 264; WFC No. 170.



Side A

Side B

418

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 16.5x14x10mm. Rectangular seal or playing piece with rounded contours and corners. Perforation (3x4mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** drilled holes of various sizes (2mm. or 3mm. or 4mm.) and depths (1mm. or 2mm. or 3mm. or 4mm.) with rounded rotating drills with pointed end.

**Description:** side A (wide): large drilled hole in upper corner. Side B (narrow): large drilled hole with smaller hole on one side and very small hole linked to central hole on other side. Side C (wide): large drilled hole in lower corner. Side D (narrow): large drilled hole in center with shallow strokes on sides.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, Syria, North Iraq, (or South West Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** in shape the present piece with its rounded contours is close to that of the double long axis perforated tabloid WFC No. 408. For tabloids with drilled holes decorated on base only, cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 392-8 (frequently four, Susa C); WFC Nos. 409-10. Some of the larger and deeper drilled depressions on the present piece may have been used for inlay, for they are of similar type to the drillings on the backs of hemispheroids and kidney shaped seals from Tell Brak. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 606; Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 369.

## 10. "Mushroom" stud and reel-shaped seals



419

**Object:** grey-green serpentine, 20x19x16.5mm. "Mushroom shaped reel or stud," dome top on short columnar back with deep groove between them; circular, convex base. Not perforated. Cord tied around groove.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with medium and large size drills with angular ends.

**Description:** central line with two slightly diagonal lines off one side and three slightly diagonal lines off other side.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, late Chalcolithic era, Gawra/early Uruk period (or early late Uruk period), North Iraq, Syria (Amuq G horizon), South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** comparatively rare seal form. Shape is a variation on the semi-reel shaped seals of the later Halaf period. The present shape developed and current in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 257, Nos. 535 (Arslantepe, later Chalcolithic era), 536 (almost identical shape and same type of base design).

Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 192:1 (identical shape, plain base, Amuq F, Gawra/early Uruk period), 2 (three drilled holes on top for inlay[?], plain base, Amuq F, Gawra/early Uruk period), 3 (identical shape, plain base, Amuq F, Gawra/early Uruk period), 255:2 (five bored depressions for inlay on top, plain base, Amuq G, later Uruk period), 383:1 (plain base, probably Amuq G). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: Nos. 85 (identical shape, schematic animals[?] on sides of geometric design on base, cross on top), 86 (identical shape, antelope[?] on base, with comparison to the stone "knob" from "Chalcolithic" Alishar, OIP 28, fig. 91, C 1588, p. 102). Simple linear "leaf" designs developed from "band group p111" layout are most common during the later Ubaid period and are found also during the Gawra/early Uruk period in areas under the influence of the Ubaid culture, both in the North and the South. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 263, Nos. 237a (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 411 (impression, Arpatchiya, Tepe Gawra, Gawra/early Uruk period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 192:8 (gable seal, Amuq F), 193:9 (hemispheroid, Amuq F); Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 159 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, level X, Uruk period). For similar linear designs cf. WFC Nos. 61 (small pyramid), 64 (ovoid pendant), 323 (small gable).

**The following three seals are reel shaped seals (WFC Nos. 420-22).** One is perforated and decorated on both sides (WFC No. 420); the other two unperforated and decorated on one side only (WFC Nos. 421-2). The perfect reel-shape developed in the Gawra/early Uruk period and continued to be in use during the early Bronze period. It is a comparatively rare seal form. Baked clay objects of very similar shape, undecorated and unperforated were found in Judeideh, Amuq B levels, as well as in the Second Mixed Range. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 58:4-5 (Amuq B), 383:2 (probably Amuq H-J). The earlier clay reel-shaped objects probably influenced the development of the perfect reel-shaped stone seal. However, the perfect shaped stone reel seals developed in a direct line from the semi-reel shaped seals of the Halaf period.



420

**Object:** black serpentine, 20.5x20x10.5mm. Reel-shaped seal with deeply rounded groove, flat top and base. Perforation (5x4mm.) in center of back groove.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size drill with pointed end.

**Description:** side A: angle-filled cross with double angles in three quadrants and ovoid in angle in fourth quadrant. Side B: four parallel lines with short, sharp

strokes or small triangles off each, alternating with small strokes or small triangles off other line.

**Date/origin:** 4th millennium-first half of 3rd millennium, later Ubaid or Uruk period (probably Gawra/early Uruk period), North Syria, South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for a perforated reel-shaped seal cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 535 (Maltese cross on one side, Arslantepe, later Chalcolithic era). For a reel-shaped seal decorated on both sides cf. Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 171.5 (same size, no perforation, cross line design with two lines respectively on top and base). For side A's design cf. WFC No. 421 below. The decoration on side B of this reel is a combination of two symmetrical moved mirror layouts: "plane group p111" and "plane group p1m1". Both these layouts are a regular feature of later Ubaid and Gawra/early Uruk periods glyptic. They usually appear on rectangular bases. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 263, Abb. 9, Tab. 4, Abb. 41 (Tepe Gawra, level XI), Nos. 290 (Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A), 331 (Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period), 494 (Tell al-'Uwaili, later Ubaid period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 363 (side B, Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period), 364 (side B, Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period); Von der Osten 1957: No. 64 (hemispheroid); WFC No. 467.



421

**Object:** dark grey-black serpentine, 22.5x22.5x10.5mm. Reel-shaped seal with deeply rounded groove; flat, round top and base. No perforation. Groove on sides the only means of suspension

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size drill with pointed end.

**Description:** uneven angle-filled cross with double angles and line or chevron in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th-3rd millennium, later Chalcolithic era or early Bronze Age, Uruk period (probably later Uruk period) or later, North Syria, South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the shape is found mainly in Northern Uruk glyptic. For the shape cf. Von Wicked 1990: 257, Tab. 3 (perforated). For unperforated reel seals decorated on one side with cross, central circle and angle in quadrants, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 253:6 (Amuq G); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: 24 (same design, bought Aleppo). The angle-filled cross with double angles is a very common base design on seals of various forms ranging from Mesopotamia, Syria and Iran, but see especially Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 191:4 (Amuq F), fig. 253:4, 5 (Amuq G), and fig. 167:6 (grooved disc of similar form to reel-shaped seal, smaller than present piece, decorated with angle-filled cross with criss-cross in

quadrants, Amuq E); Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 511 (ridge handle, round base, angle-filled cross with three angles in quadrants, Faruqabad, later Ubaid period); WFC Nos. 294, 298.



422

**Object:** grey-blueish serpentine, 22x23x12.5mm. Reel-shaped seal with deeply rounded groove; flat, round top and base. No perforation. Groove on sides of back only means of suspension.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size drill with pointed end.

**Description:** radiating linear design with empty center.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th-3rd millennium, later Chalcolithic era or early Bronze Age, Uruk period (probably later Uruk period) or later, North Syria, South-East Anatolia or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 421 above. For similar symmetrical radiating base design cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 542 (lentoid pearl, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 108 (tabloid with rounded corners, side B, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Gawra/early Uruk period); Schmidt 1937: Pl. XV, No. H4700 (small handled "button" seal, Hissar I); Amiet 1972: No. 101 (large hemispheroid, Susa A); WFC Nos. 218-9 (carinated hemispheroids).

## 11. Discoid, hemispheroids, pearls and half-barrel seals



423

**Object:** dark grey-cream volcanic stone (ash or tuff) with quartz grains, 23x22.5x5.5mm. Irregular discoid, flat back top, uneven height, uneven convex base. No perforation. No means of suspension.

**Technique:** broad curved linear cut with medium size drill, no detailing.

**Description:** animal with two legs (dog?) facing right, (or large bird) with horned head and fish(?) above, fish or snake below behind and filling motifs (or smaller animal) in front.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, North Iraq, South-east Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** proper discoid seals have some means of suspension. Thin decorated discoids with no visible means of suspension are difficult to date, for the shape has been in use over long chronological periods: from the later Halaf period to the end of prehistoric glyptic. Their use as proper seals is suspected. The simplified rendering, engraving style and unclear motifs of this piece are typical of late North Uruk glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 309, 311, 314, 315 (round impressions, Tepe Gawra, level IX-VIII), 369 (round impression, Arslantepe, later Uruk period), 395 (square impression, similar animals, Arslantepe, later Uruk period). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: Nos. 78-81 (hemispheroids). For similar combination of motifs cf. WFC No. 266 (unperforated disc); Von Wickede 1990: No. 256 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XII); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 59, 64 (hemispheroids); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 191.2, 3, 193.4 (hemispheroids).



424

**Object:** white opaque marble, 14x12.5x7mm. Hemispheroid with truncated sides below perforation holes, sub-round base truncated on one side. Perforation (3mm.) on short axis. Broken and chipped on base.

**Technique:** drilled holes linked together by fairly broad linear drill.

**Description:** reclining gazelle or moufflon facing left with small linear motif (foliage?) in front.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, Iraq, North-East Syria and Susiana.

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape, motif and engraving style in late Uruk period, glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 588 (Kis, later Uruk period), 699 (Tell Brak, later Uruk period); Amiet 1972: Nos. 385 (hemispheroid, Susa C=Jamdet Nasr period), 386 (hemispheroid with sub-rectangular base, Susa C). Cf. also the motif on other shapes in Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 164 (square impression, Tepe Gawra, level X, Gawra/early Uruk period), 181 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level VIII, transitional period between Uruk and Jamdet Nasr periods), 189 (ovoid impression, Tepe Gawra, level VIII, transitional period between Uruk and Jamdet Nasr periods); Amiet 1972: No. 433 (lion head amulet-seal,

Susa C); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 265 (lion head amulet-seal, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period).

426

**Object:** cream limestone, 50x51x22mm. Collared hemispheroid pearl with hemispheroid perforation side profile and very short collars not circling whole perforation holes; ovoid base. Perforation (one end: 4.5x5mm.; other end: 5x6mm.) through collars, (perforation and collars: one end: 8mm.; other end: 10mm.). Slightly chipped on back.

**Technique:** deep linked linear and drilled dots in gouging technique forming long curved lines with large rounded drills with rounded edges.

**Description:** three curved lines forming circular frame, curved line in center forming oval with one frame lines and two smaller lines within; two lines and angle on other side.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, South Iraq and Susiana (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape originating in the later Chalcolithic era in the South, and most common in the later Uruk period in South Mesopotamia and Susiana. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: 258, Tab. 3. Nos. 519 (Susa, later Chalcolithic era); Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 496 (Ur, Jamdet Nasr period); Amiet 1972: No. 277 (shape and technique, Susa C). For shape cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 90 (Southern Mesopotamia and Susiana); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 206 (shape and technique, source unknown), 207 (shape, technique, bought, said to be from Iran). Technique of base decoration and its symmetrical circular layout are also typical of this period. Cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 611 (animal amulet, technique, Susa C), 612 (animal amulet, technique Tell Brak). Cf. also Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 207 above.

160



425

**Object:** opaque white with red, light brown veins marble, 25.5x25x11.5mm. Large hemispheroid, round base. Ovoid perforation (one end: 6x7mm.; other end: 6x8mm) cut into back after manufacture by tight cord.

**Technique:** broad linear cut with broad drill with rounded edge for body, thinner linear drill with pointed edge linking together deeper drilled dots with rounded edged drill.

**Description:** crouching gazelle facing left.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, Western Iran (Luristan [Tepe Giyan?] or Susiana), South Iraq (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and engraving technique typical for late Uruk glyptic. Engraving technique found especially on tabloids from this era. For animals depicted in similar engraving style cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 587 (tabloid, Tell Brak, later Ubaid period); Delaporte 1920: No. A.22, pl. 62 (tabloid, purchased, from Sumer); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 209 (large hemispheroid, bought [Kish Expedition]); Buchanan 1981: No. 112 (tabloid with slightly gabled back, column of four animals: two boars(?) above two horned animals(?), South Mesopotamia and Susiana, second half of 4th millennium, presumably from Tepe Giyan).



427

**Object:** dark brown limestone, 49x43x15mm. Hemispheroid pearl, with carinated hemispheroid perforation side profile and faint collars, ovoid base. Perforation (6x7mm.) through collars (perforation and

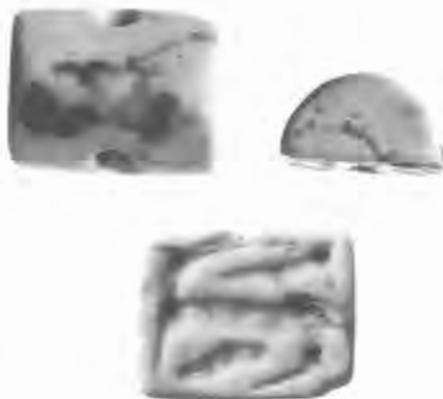
collars: 7x8mm.), on long axis. Slightly chipped on base and back.

**Technique:** gouged drilled holes with thick linear drill forming bouterolle shapes.

**Description:** animals, birds and crustaceans in double circle composition. Round rim: two horned animals (gazelles? with two legs) facing left with stylized bird or flower in front; two animals facing right with bird or crustaceans in front and behind; stylized bird facing left between the two groups. In center: five stylized birds or crustaceans in circle.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, South Iraq and Susiana (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** very common shape, engraving style, composition and motifs for seals of later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Nos. 589 (shape and same layout, engraving technique and similar motifs, Larsa, later Ubaid period), 603 (Tell Brak, later Uruk period). For shape cf. also Buchanan 1981: Nos. 89, 92. For similar shape and/or engraving style and/or layout cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Nos. 454 (Uruk, Jamdet Nasr period), 467 (Tello, Jamdet Nasr period), 502 (Ur, Jamdet Nasr period); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 241.2, 242.3, 245.3.



428

**Object:** opaque white-cream marble with light and dark red-brown veins, 27.5x22.5x12.5mm. Half-barrel (sub-cylinder) shaped seal, rectangular base with angular corners. Ovoid perforation (6x7mm.) very close to base, on short axis. Chipped on one base corner.

**Technique:** drilled holes linked together by broad lines with additional thin lines cut with large, broad, rounded drills, rounded edges and medium size drill.

**Description:** crouching gazelle facing left, unidentified motif (fish?) below, bird(?) above.

**Date/origin:** end of 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or Ninive 5 period, North Syria, South-East Anatolia, Iraq, or Susiana.

**Discussion/comparanda:** half-barrel seals with short axis perforation are comparatively rare. This shape developed in the later Uruk period from pearl seals with long oval or sub-rectangular bases with round corners.

These seal forms are common in South Mesopotamia and Susiana (Susa C) glyptic of the late Uruk period. Cf. Amiet 1972: No. 280. Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 196 (rectangular base); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 203 (Kish). The broadly cut engraving style of the present seal with its unclear filling motifs is close to that which is found on late Uruk period large hemispheroids and tabloids from the late Uruk period. Cf. WFC Nos. 347, 338 (hemispheroids); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 208 (hemispheroid, bought, Kish Expedition); Von Wickede 1990: No. 587 (tabloid, Larsa). The present design is close to hemispheroid WFC Nos. 400, 424-5 (hemispheroids); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 93 (gable, bought Kara Huyuk near Nizip); Delaporte 1920: No. S.279 (large hemispheroid with high dome, reclining antelope with filling motifs, Susa).

161



429

**Object:** white-cream limestone with grey veins, 24x22x11.5mm. Hemispheroid pearl (close to half-barrel or loaf-shaped) seal with flattened hemispheroid back, wide oval base (close to rectangular with rounded corners). Perforation (one end: 5x7mm.; other end: 5mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** fairly deep, curved linear cut with medium size drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** two gazelles or goats in opposite directions with legs to center and chevron before head.

**Date/origin:** end of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or slightly later, South Iraq, Susiana, (or South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape in the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 258, Tab. 3, No. 591 (Susa C); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 203 (Kish V125), 204 (Kish V126). The zoomorphic symmetrical rotating "point group 2" layout with the animals' legs to center is also most commonly found in the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 263, Nos. 385 (round impression, similar engraving style, Arslantepe), 388 (round impression, Arslantepe), 391 (square impression, Arslantepe). For zoomorphic rotating layouts with a larger number of animals in a similar engraving style cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Nos. 411 (hemispheroid, Jamdet Nasr, Jamdet Nasr period), 495 (ovoid pearl, Ur, Jamdet Nasr period), 514 (Fara, Jamdet Nasr period). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: 92 (ovoid pearl); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 234.2, 239.1, 2, 242.1 (ovoid and collared pearls).



430

**Object:** white, brown limestone, 17x15x12.5mm. Half-barrel (loaf) shaped seal, rectangular base with slightly curved short sides and slightly rounded corners. Perforation (one end: 3.5x4mm.; other end: 4.5x5mm.) off center, near top, on long axis, parallel to design.

**Technique:** drilled holes linked together by fairly broad lines and fine, thin lines, cut with round edged drill, large, shallower broad drill and thin drills.

**Description:** goat or moufflon facing right with smaller animal facing left below (its young?), serpent above and scorpion or spray in front.

**Date/origin:** 3rd millennium (or later), early Bronze Age (or later), Syria, South-East Anatolia or North Palestine.

**Discussion/comparanda:** rare shape in prehistoric glyptic, probably developed from hemispheroid pearls such as WFC Nos. 226, 429. Cf. also WFC Nos. 428 above (close shape with similar engraving style, but with wider lines), 230 (close engraving style). For a later Uruk period example of a small caprid below a larger one cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 395 (square impression, Arslantape). The motif of a caprid suckling its young, is not found in Uruk glyptic. However, it may have developed during the Bronze Age from such depictions as the Arslantepe impressions. The motif is common on Iron Age seals (usually conoids) originating mainly from Israel. However, on 12th-10th century pieces these motifs are engraved in a different style than that of the present piece, that is without the drilled hole gouging and with a sharper linear drill cut. Cf. Keel-Leu 1991: Nos. 58-60.

## 12. Sub-cylinder bead-seals (?) and solid cylinder seals



431

**Object:** orange-yellow cornelian, 7x17mm. Long narrow bead-seal or small sub-cylinder seal narrowing toward perforated sides with round perforation profile sides. Comparatively large perforation (3mm.) on long axis. Design on one elongated half of "bead".

**Technique:** shallow linear and curved lines with very fine, thin drill and tiny drilled dots; perforation sides cut and polished (cut and hole: 7mm.).

**Description:** two water birds in row, each facing the

other side (or "eyes"). Short neck; long parallel back feathers; short lower feathers; fine dots or strokes within sub-rounded "bodies" and small drilled dots on one side.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period (or later Uruk period), Syria, South-East Anatolia, Iraq, West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape and material are not common in Prehistoric glyptic. The early cylinder seals of the later Uruk period or early Historic periods are usually decorated on the whole surface for rolling a continuous design. The present piece is decorated on one side only and may represent a comparatively early, transitional example between a pearl seal or a decorated bead and a cylinder seal. Cf. especially the similar, though flatter seal in Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 39.17 (Hakalan and Dum Gar Pacina). For large numbers of orangey-red cornelian beads, generally of barrel-shape from the Royal Cemetery of Ur, cf. Collon 1990: 35. Engraving style with its drilled dots and small strokes decorating body is typical of the Gawra/early Uruk period. This engraving style disappears from later Uruk period glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede '990: Nos. 571, 572 (Susa, later Chalcolithic era); WFC No. 454. Water birds (or "eyes") and a layout in rows are also typical features of pre-later Ubaid glyptic. Cf. ibid.: 260.



432

**Object:** green serpentine, 13x6mm. Barrel shaped sub-cylinder seal-bead with round perforation side profile diagonally cut inward on both perforation sides. Comparatively large perforation (3x4mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with very thin drill with pointed end.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design framed on top and base by two parallel grooves.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or Nivite 5 period, Syria, Iraq, North-West Iran, (Amuq G or H horizon or Hissar I-III horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape for beads or bead-seals, especially from Tell Hissar and the Amuq area from the early Bronze Age. Cf. Schmidt 1937: Nos. H4387.1 (zigzag design, Hissar IC), 2 (linear design, Hissar IC), H3591.7 (linear design, Hissar III), H3592.3 (linear design, Hissar III). Cf. also Braidwood /Braidwood 1960: figs. 100:4 (slightly smaller, undecorated beads from First Mixed Range in the Amuq), 252:12 (undecorated, Amuq G); Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 39.17 (similar shape, continuous zigzag design, Hakalan or Gar Pacina). A cylinder seal of similar dimensions to present piece was found in the Second Mixed Range in the Amuq, cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 281:2 (figure design, Amuq G or H). The ancient continuous "plane group c2mm" layout design, is here adjusted to the rolling of this sub-cylinder bead-seal. For this layout without the linear frame

on a solid cylinder from Amuq G phase, cf. WFC No. 365. For the same ornament, but without the frame lines, on early Bronze Age impressions and seal-amulets cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 484 (impressions, Uruk), 621 (anthropomorphic amulet-seal, Faruqabad).



433

**Object:** green-grey serpentine, 16x8.5mm. Barrel-shaped sub-cylinder bead-seal with round perforations side profile diagonally cut in same direction (inward and outward) on perforation sides. Perforation (3mm.) on long axis.

**Technique:** linear cut with thin drill with pointed end; cut and polished around perforation hole (cut and hole: 5mm.).

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design widely spaced and framed on top and base by one parallel groove.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or Ninevite 5 period, Syria, Iraq, North-West Iran, (Amuq G or H horizon or Hissar I-III horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 432 above.



Side

Top

434

**Object:** mottled greenish-grey, cream serpentine, 17x15x26mm. Solid cylinder seal with small, low suspension ridge-handle; flat, plain oval base, slightly diagonal in cut. Small handle perforation (3mm.) drilled into back top.

**Technique:** deep linear cut with medium size drill with sharp end; handle perforation cut on back.

**Description:** whole face decorated with diagonal criss-cross design widely spaced.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, North Syria, South-West Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similar solid cylinder seals cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 254:1 (slightly taller suspension ridge handle, straight lines crossed by diagonal lines, Amuq G); Buchanan 1966: No. 742

("roughly vertical lines irregularly hatched", from North Syria); Teissier 1984: Nos. 300 (smaller, similar small perforated handle, four pig-tailed seated figures, c. 3100-2900 B.C., Syria), 302 (smaller, taller perforated handle, twelve schematic figures, c. 3200-2900 B.C., Syria). For the same diagonal criss-cross (plane group c2mm) layout widely spaced on later Uruk period stamp seal cf. Homès-Fredericq 1970: No. 410 (Jamdet Nasr). Cf. also WFC Nos. 432-3 above. For the motif on cylinder seals cf. Teisser 1984: Nos. 32-5 (c. 3100-2900 B.C.).

163



435

**Object:** dark brown serpentine, 16x4.5x40mm. Solid cylinder seal with elongated suspension sub-ridge handle; flat, plain oval base. Large, elongated ovoid handle perforation (5x7mm.). Much worn.

**Technique:** shallow and deep linear, curved cut and drilled dots of various depths (1mm. or 2mm. or 3mm.) and sizes (2mm. or 3mm.) with medium size drills with pointed, broad and tubular ends. Design covers two-thirds of cylinder face.

**Description:** encircled drilled dot within open semi-lozenge built of two or three diagonal, parallel lines and two drilled dots within arch or encircled with strokes above. Motif repeated with slight variations: drilled dot within arch above drilled dot within arches.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for shape and similar designs cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 381:3 (very similar design but more regular, "said to come from Tell Eshref a -Mai..., apparently from the Aleppo Plain, Syria, identical design with Phase G cylinder [fig. 254:3]," Amuq G), 4 (design of straight diagonal lines combined with drill centered circles, said to come from Jabel Bariska, Syria, Amuq G or less likely Amuq H); Buchanan 1966: No. 741 (very similar design, but more regular, "recorded as from a grave on Amorgos, Cyclide Island", bought Athens, of "East Mediterranean origin... or Late Crudity" = Collon 1993: 109, No. 12viii [drawing of shape], 588 [impression], Jamdet Nasr Style). For the contacts between Syria, North Mesopotamia and the Aegean area and Western Turkey cf. ibid.: 23, 141, No. 49 [Troy, Turkey]. "Ultimately these designs are probably to be connected with the Piedmont or Ninevite 5 style of northern Mesopotamia of which a related example was found at Troy." [ibid.: 141]); Teissier

1984: No. 313 (similar shape with squat perforated handle and the same base design, but wider and more regular, c. 3100-2900 B.C., Syria = Collon 1993: No. 488 [c. 3000-2334 B.C., Syria]). For similar shape cf. also Teissier 1984: No. 310 (round perforation, herringbone pattern, c. 3100-2900 B.C., Syria). For almost identical patterns cf. also Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 254:1 (similar shape, Amuq G), 3 (similar though more symmetrical and continuous design, Amuq G), 381:4 (similar shape and more regular combined linear and encircled drilled dots motif, purchased in the Amuq area); Buchanan 1981: No. 226a-c. According to Collon (1993: 21-23) these geometric designs are typical of the Susa-Syria trade-route of the late Jamdet Nasr period of which the Piedmont seals of the Diyala area are the best examples. Ibid.: 23: "Patterns based on circles, lozenges and chevrons were adopted in Syria and Palestine (Nos. 46-8)". For very close design to present piece cf. especially ibid.: No. 48 (Tel Atchana).



436

**Object:** dark grey-blueish limestone, 16.5x16x31.5mm. Solid cylinder with uneven sub-gable or conoid top "growing" directly from cylinder body, narrowing toward flat, plain oval base. Small "gable" perforation (2.5x3mm.) cutting into back on one side, near back top, on short axis of "gable" top.

**Technique:** deep linear and curved cut with large drills with angular and rounded edge, shallower incisions with thinner drill and small drilled dots.

**Description:** design difficult to decipher. Vertical human figure facing left with outstretched hands and spread legs (or three legged animal) above two small linear motifs ending in small dots; similar vertical human figure facing in opposite direction (or architectural motif, or two legged animal) within large curved motif (snake or enclosure); shrine (door with lintel and two lines above); vertical line with small strokes off it (fish, leaf or scorpion?) with similar horizontal linear motif above.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period (or slightly later), Syria (or South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** typical shape for Amuq G or H phases cylinder seals, some of which are decorated in similar deep, linear engraving styles. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 297:5 (same shape but shorter seal, very similar engraving style with more drilled dots depicting animals in vertical and horizontal layouts, Amuq H), 381:6 (identical shape and similar engraving style, geometric and encircled drilled dot motifs, Amuq G or H), 382:1 (similar engraving style, row of striding animals toward linear architectural motif, Amuq G or H), 3 (identical shape and engraving style, row of three legged animals with architectural motifs above, Amuq G or H), 4 (similar engraving style, human figure with animals on both sides, Amuq G or H). For close shape cf. also Teissier 1984: No. 301 ("byre-shaped" seal with three horizontal grooves at point of byre, a pigtail figure sits before two spiderlike forms, Syria, c. 3100-2900 B.C.); Collon 1993: No. 470 (topped by a horizontal ridged cone which is loop-bored, possibly indicating a Syrian origin, Jamdet Nasr Style, before 3000 B.C., comparatively rare shape). For similar elongated, simplified human figures on round impressions of stamp seals with animals placed on their sides in 90 degrees cf. Von Wickwede 1990: Nos. 399, 400 (impressions, Arslantepe, later Ubaid period). For combinations of similar motifs (without human figures) on cylinder seals cf. Teissier 1984: Nos. 316 (loop bore, Syria, c. 3000 B.C.), 317 (Syria, c. 3000 B.C.).

## (B) Pendant-seal amulets and amulets

### 1. Boot or foot-shaped pendant-seal amulets



437

**Object:** olive green serpentine, 17x7x18.5mm. Boot or foot-shaped seal-pendant, with rounded back contours, long "leg" with cut top. Thin, elongated, oval base. Small perforation (2mm.) near "leg" top on short axis.

**Technique:** very beautifully grounded and polished, linear cut with medium size drill.

**Description:** central line with many diagonal lines off it.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably end of Gawra/early Uruk period), North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** an identically shaped

naturalistic boot or foot-shaped seal-pendant has been found in Tepe Gawra. Its dating is arguable. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: No. 216 (stag and round motif surrounded by frame, Uruk or Jamdet Nasr period =Von Wickede 1990: 256, note 9, "found in Gawra, XIII or XIV, probably stuck there in older context"). The above Tepe Gawra boot or foot-shaped seal-amulet decorated on its base is an example of the reoccurrence of this anthropomorphic shaped seal-amulet shape in the early Bronze Age. According to Von Wickede (ibid.: 256) this shape first reappears sporadically and than more frequently during the EBIII period. Alp 1968: argues a 3rd millennium date for the origin of the boot or foot-shaped seal. This thesis is refuted. Cf. WFC No. 13. A large sculptured votive shoe and three smaller shoes with slightly turned-up toe were found in Tell Brak in the Grey-brick stratum under the Eye-Temple. Cf. Mallowan 1947: Pls. VIII, No. 6, LII, Nos. 10, 19 (Jamdet Nasr period). The present foot-seal's base design has been a favorite base design for this category of seal-amulets since the Neolithic and Halaf periods. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 30.1 (divider with straight and diagonal strokes off it, Tülül at-Talalat, Neolithic, out of context); WFC Nos. 104 (Neolithic or Halaf period), 108. This "leaf" or "comb"-like motif depicted in a rigid symmetrical layout as the only base ornament is most popular in the later Ubaid period. In this period it is also a favorite filling motif. In its rigid form and as the only base motif this "comb"-like ornament continues to occur in Northern glyptic during the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: 263, 264, Tab. 4, Nos. 237 (wide oval or square, impression, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 332 (rhomboid impression, without central divider, Degirmenitepe, later Ubaid period), 411 (ovoid impression, Arpatchiya, Gawra period), 536 ("mushroom"-like reel, loose form of motif, Tepe Gawra, later Chalcolithic era). In the later Uruk period this pattern disappears from the glyptic repertoire. Similarly shaped and pierced foot amulets are also a common amulet shape in Egypt. There they are unique to the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period. However, most are not seal amulets for they have a plain base. Cf. Andrews 1994: 71-2, Pl. 67e, 74e, g.



438

**Object:** black-grey serpentine. 12.5x6.5x21mm. Boot or foot-shaped seal-pendant with rounded back contours, long "leg" "growing" directly from base and conoid top; comparatively short, thin, elongated, oval base. Perforation (one end: 3x4mm.; other end: 3mm.) near top of "leg"-handle, on short axis. Chipped on base end.

**Technique:** beautifully grounded and polished, linear cut with medium and thin drills; rounded perforation from both sides slightly narrowing in center.

**Description:** central line with four diagonal lines off it.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Uruk period (probably end of Gawra/early Uruk period), North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 437 above, but with a different "leg" top.

165



439

**Object:** grey gypsum, 15.5x8x12mm. Boot or foot-shaped, high, thick rounded back and short "leg" with diagonally cut top (broken?), wide oval base. Vertical perforation (3x4mm.) from center of back through base (secondary perforation?).

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size drill.

**Description:** back: two groups of three diagonal lines (not meeting) on front of "boot-foot," and two groups of two diagonal lines at back of "boot-leg". Base: plain with large perforation hole.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or later, Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the size of the present piece and the use of linear design on its back are on the one hand in affinity with the late Halaf or early Ubaid periods foot or hoof seal-amulets (cf. WFC No. 107) and, on the other hand, with the smaller, naturalistic, plain base boot pieces of the late Uruk period found in Tell Brak. Cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. LII, No. 10 (simple cross motif on back). However, the present piece lacks many features characterizing both this boot from Tell-Brak as well as other larger boots from the same Tell and date (that is, for example: their tiptoe base, three-dimensional top-boot rim and perforation through "leg" top). For an animal shaped seal-amulet with vertical perforation from back through base cf. ibid.: Pl. XIV, No. 28 (sheep, Tell Brak, later Uruk period). Gypsum is rarely used in prehistoric glyptic as seal material after the Aceramic Neolithic period.



440

**Object:** white-cream gypsum-alabaster with black spots from fire(?) 18.5x8x21mm. Boot or foot shaped, long "leg" with straight cut top "growing" directly from base, elongated sub-rectangular base with curved short sides

and slightly tiptoe end. Vertical perforation through top of "leg" turning diagonally to side of "leg", slightly below top on end of foot and near top (top's hole: 3mm.; side's hole: 3x4mm.). Modern work(?)

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with medium size drill.

**Description:** back: two sets of two diagonal lines on sides of upper foot back near "heel"; central divider with many vertical lines off it on back of "leg". Base: undecorated.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, later Uruk/"Jamdet" Nasr period, early Dynastic period (or Modern re-touch or fake), North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 437, but with longer proportions and more angular cut. For identical perforation technique on a boot-shaped amulet cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. LII, No. 19 (plain base, curved rows of lines with smaller strokes between them [wings?] on front of boot, Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period).



441

**Object:** pink chalk, 22x6x15mm. Foot shaped with cut-top, fairly short "leg" "growing" directly from base; very thin, elongated sub-rectangular base with curved short sides. Vertical perforation through top of "leg", turning diagonally to side of "leg", slightly below top (top's hole: 3mm.; side's hole: 2.5x3mm.).

**Technique:** shallow linear cut and very small drilled dots with thin drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** back: two parallel lines on end of foot: fingers; two diagonal lines on upper foot below "leg"; central line with many straight lines off it on back of "leg." Base: undecorated.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, early Dynastic period (or Modern fake), North Syria, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type as WFC No. 440 above. Shape close to Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 216 (Tepe Gawra, for date cf. WFC No. 437).



442

**Object:** opaque white marble, 24x10x19mm. Foot shaped with "leg growing" directly from base, cut top, angular and cut contours, sub-ovoid base. Vertical perforation through top of "leg", turning diagonally to side of "leg", slightly below top (top's hole: 3mm.; side's hole: 3x4mm.). Chipped near top.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size drill and encircled drilled dot. Overall cut very clean and sharp promoting feeling of Modern cut.

**Description:** back: three parallel lines on end of foot: fingers; two lines on upper foot below "leg"; encircled drilled dot in center of foot; central line with diagonal strokes off it on back of "leg". Base: undecorated.

**Discussion/comparanda:** later 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or early Dynastic period, North Syria, North Iraq or more probably Modern fake of seal-amulets from those eras and areas.

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC No. 441 above. The present piece is without the usual signs of wear found on most prehistoric seals and pendants. For the perfect encircled drilled dot motif on sharp angularly cut schematic animal seal-amulets and amulets from early Bronze Tell Brak, cf. Mallowan 1947: Pls. XV, Nos. 19 (duck, with encircled drilled dot for eyes and on body and vertical lines below head), 14 (biform bull heads, double encircled drilled dots and simple linear cuts), XIV, No. 27 (bucranium, two encircled drilled dots for eyes, ca. 3000 B.C.).



443

**Object:** black serpentine, 19.5x10.5x10mm. Boot or foot shaped with very low, diagonal, flat cut-top "leg growing" directly from base, wide ovoid base narrowing and slightly tip-toed at one end. No perforation.

**Technique:** faint linear cut with very thin drill on back and deeper linear and curved cut and drilled dot with medium size drill.

**Description:** back: grid criss-cross design on foot's back and leg's top. Base: eight-rayed star (or wheel design) in center with two dots and crescent on one side and larger drilled dot on other side.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-2nd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period to Early Hittite period? Reworked in 9th-7th century B.C., North Syria, North Iraq Center-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** general shape and size are close to the Neolithic foot-shaped sea-amulet from Tulul at-Talalat. However, the early piece differs from the present in its perforation, full flat base and location of

decoration on base only. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 30.5. The slightly up turned base (tiptoe) of the present seal and its back decoration connect it to the perforated, plain base boots from Tell Brak. Cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. LII, No. 19 (later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period). For a similarly shaped boot or foot shaped seal-pendant decorated on back, cf. also Von der Osten 1957: fig. 3.30 (Alisar, a 430). The ancient simple grid criss-cross geometric motif does occur in the later Uruk period and continues to be applied also in early Historical period glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 264. The crescent motif is unknown in prehistoric glyptic. The eight-rayed star (wheel or flower) design does occur in prehistoric glyptic. However, since both base ornaments are cut in the same engraving technique by the same "hand", it is most probable that the base decoration is probably a much later addition (9th-7th century B.C. in Neo Imperial engraving style) to an earlier seal-pendant with an originally plain base.

## 2. Tabloid seal-amulet, animal shaped and odd shaped pendant-seal amulets and pendant-amulets



As tabloid/pyramidal seal



As "pendant"

444

**Object:** red-brown opaque jasper, 24x13.5x7mm. Irregular rectangular tabloid narrowing toward side B (or top) and conoid profile on sides E (near perforation hole) and F (close to thin pyramidal), uneven rectangular sides A and C with rounded and angular corners. Perforation (5mm.) on upper corner of sides A-C, in pendant fashion. Broken on one corner and chipped.

**Technique:** shallow, broad linear cut with blunt drill with very fine strokes on broad cut and fine linear cut with thin drill; perforation from both sides with very wide rounded drill with narrow pointed end, narrowing to small drilled hole (2mm.).

**Description:** side A (wide): two hopping(?) gazelles in near heraldic stand, one above the other, to right, heads turned back. Side B (narrow, or top): irregular zigzag

design filled with small bird(?) and strokes. Side C (wide): human figure standing diagonally, facing right, with rounded head, elongated body, lowered right hand and foot (broken), outstretched left hand holding(?) long zigzag attribute (or snake) with large sword or animal skin on hip, long left foot facing right. Diagonal line crossing left foot (end of right foot?). Chevron within angular motif (zoomorphic, object or temple door) on right corner in front of human figure. Side D (narrow or base): two parallel lines ending in sub-rectangular frame with pointed top (decorative motif or object [spade?]).

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, end of later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq (or South-East Anatolia).

**Discussion/comparanda:** transitional shape between tabloid and pyramidal seals. The piece was originally manufactured as a tabloid/pyramidal seal. The pendant-like perforation is a later addition for it cuts and obliterates the designs on sides A and C. The later adaptation of the piece to the more amuletic function may have been influenced by the rare material (jasper) and probable magical connotations of the stone's colour (deep red). In excavated material the use of jasper for seals from Mesopotamia is found for the first time in the Jamdet Nasr period. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: 67 (all examples are from Tello, No. 476: tabloid in typical South Mesopotamian engraving style). The iconographical and stylistic analysis of the present piece's decoration date the stone to an earlier date than the late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period. Thus, this piece is an earlier example than the Tello pieces of the glyptic use of jasper. For the material cf. also WFC No. 377. The elongated proportions, side pose and attributes of the human figure on side C are typical of the ending later Ubaid period and especially of Gawra/early Uruk depictions of human figures. In the glyptic of both these periods, but especially on impressions from Tepe Gawra, human figures of the same type are commonly represented with various objects near by, these objects include squarish altars and spades similar to the objects on side D of the present stone or animals in 90 degrees angle. For examples from Tepe Gawra cf. Von Wickede 1990: 266, Nos. 280 (round impression, spade and objects with seated figure, level XI A), 282 (round impression, same human figure type and squarish altar, level XI A), 283 (rectangular impression, same human figure type and pose, level XI A), 284 (rectangular impression, similar layout of human figure and animal, level XI A), 394 (squarish impression, identical human figure's pose with hip attribute, level XII-XI/X A?). Cf. also the thinner human figure on WFC No. 470 (bead-seal, similar human figure and pose). The layout of the two caprids on side C is a variant of "band group p1" layout of animals found in a similar none rigid form occasionally in the later Ubaid period. In its rigid form this layout depicting two animals or rows of animals is most characteristic of the Gawra/early Uruk period. Cf. ibid.: 265, Nos. 245-248 (round impressions, No. 247: with spade, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 287 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A), 288 (rectangular impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A), 291 (rectangular impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A), 353 (round impression, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period);

Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 139 (rectangular impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI), 141 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI), 143 (rectangular impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI), 144 (round impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI). A depiction of animals (and human figures) with short strokes on their bodies is a feature of the later Ubaid period glyptic which especially characterizes pieces from Degirmentepe but is also found occasionally in naturalistic depictions of animals from North Iraq represented in the "Gawra style". Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 267, Nos. 349, 350, 359-367, 547 (impressions and seal, Degirmentepe, later Ubaid period), 412 (ovoid impression, wild boar, Arpatchiya, Gawra/early Uruk period). (Strokes on animals' bodies depicted in a different engraving style than on the present caprids, occur also on gable seals from North Syria and Anatolia). The zigzag motif on side B is a loose variant on the common later Ubaid period zigzag motifs. Cf. WFC No. 274



445

**Object:** dark grey serpentine, 19x19x4mm. Two low, wide bulges on back of uneven sub-disc with round base. Perforated in center of bulges, through base.

**Technique:** shallow linear cut with blunt edged drill and sharp, thin drill; perforation from top to base.

**Description:** trefoil design with large, central hole drilled through base, central line within each foil and line on side of each foil.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** perforation hole through base original to shape. For discs and sub-discs from this period cf. Von Wickede 1990: 262, Tab. 3. The present design is an example of "symmetrical point group 3mm" layout. Floral motifs decorate seals already in Ubaid 4 and are continued to be used in the Gawra/early Uruk period. Von Wickede has shown that "symmetrical point groups 3 and 3m" base designs appear only in the Gawra period. Cf. ibid.: 262, Tab 4, Abb. 34.8 (impression, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A (?)), Nos. 538 (Tepe Gawra), 539 (Tell Qaling Aga). For quatrefoil design of identical petals and large central circle on reel-shaped seal base from the same period cf. ibid.: No. 535 (Tepe Gawra).



As conoidal seal

As seal-amulet

Base

446

**Object:** dark grey-black serpentine, 21x5x10mm. Thin conoidal seal or seal-amulet with elongated semi-circular side profile, narrow ovoid base. Comparatively small perforation (3mm.) in center near top, on short axis.

**Technique:** base: deep engraving with thick rounded drill; back: shallower linear cut with thin, pointed edged drill.

**Description:** back: three small diagonal grooves on top to sides with one chevron near base. Base: uneven, lengthwise deep line.

**Date/origin:** second half of 5th-middle of 4th millennium, Ubaid period (probably later Ubaid period) or Gawra/early Uruk period, North Iraq, North-West Syria or South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape close to WFC No. 191, but much thinner. Cf. also Von Wickede 1990: No. 173 (similar back profile but much thicker profile, Yarimtepe, II, Halaf period). For a four line design in similar cutting technique on a low handled seal cf. ibid.: 233 (Tell Kurdu, early Ubaid period). The present shape, is almost identical with WFC No. 447 below which is decorated with motifs that date it to the end of the later Ubaid period or the Gawra/early Uruk period. The two pieces differ in the location of their perforation. One line as the only base design occurs sporadically in prehistoric glyptic from the later Ceramic Neolithic era onwards. Cf. WFC No. 28 (conoid, with lists). A one line design on base of seals has been taken to symbolize the female vagina. Cf. Bar-Yoseph 1979: 57.



447

**Object:** black-brown, greenish serpentine with light brown-cream patina, 35.5x17x5.5mm. Elongated sub-half-circular pendant-seal, with an almost flat back and face (or base), elongated oval base (or left side). Perforation (one end: 3x4mm.; other end: 3mm.) near top (when perforation up) or on left corner (when oval base down), on short axis. When oval base down, shape close to "fish"-shaped pendant with perforation hole "acting" as "fish-eye."

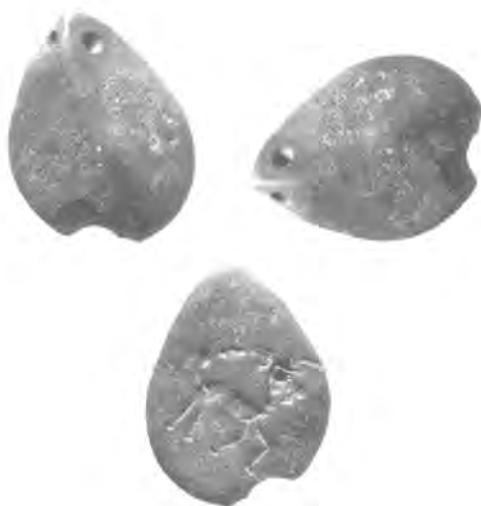
**Technique:** fairly deep and shallower linear and wide, broad cut with few very thin linear cuts on it with medium size rounded drill with pointed end, larger drill with blunt edge and small drill.

**Description:** face (or half circular base): horned head facing to side with long horns (one straight and one with inward angle) below perforation hole and tripartite flower bud or bird on side (or below). Base (or left side): two

unconnected straight grooves in center.

**Date/origin:** second half or middle of 4th millennium, later Chalcolithic era, end of later Ubaid period or more likely Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similar shape cf. WFC No. 446 above. For more 'sculptured' three-dimensional "fish"-shaped pendant-seals cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. XIV, No. 25 (different shape with wide ovoid base, stag, horned heads and filling motifs, large drilled hole on rounded back for inlay[?] acting as "eye", Tell Brak, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period); WFC No. 450. Horned heads and birds are favorite filling motifs in the ending later Ubaid period. In the Gawra/early Uruk period horned heads and birds are less popular as filling motifs while horned heads as the only motif arranged in rows as groups of two or three heads are frequently depicted. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 262 and especially Nos. 245 (round impression, row of caprids with two birds and horned head, Tepe Gawra, level XIII, later Ubaid period), 291 (square impression, two horned heads in similar pose to present piece with additional motif, Tepe Gawra, level XI/X A, Gawra/early Uruk period), 579 (gable seal, horned head as filling motif, Tell Seyh, later Chalcolithic era). Cf. also the horned heads and birds with or without small filling motifs in Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 127-9 (gable seals); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 191.1, 8, 192.6 (hemispheroids) and the much more schematic and linear horned head in Amiet 1972: No. 413 (tabloid, Susa C, Jamdet Nasr period).



448

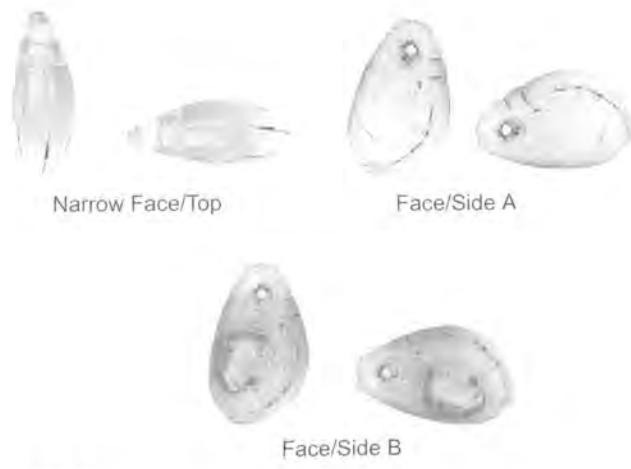
**Object:** dark brown-black limestone, 31x24.5x7.5mm. Heart-shaped seal-pendant, low carinated back, heart-shaped base. Comparatively small back perforation (2.5mm.) near thinner edge top, on short axis "acting" as eye. Viewed from sides shape probably represents an animal. Broken on lower right base and back.

**Technique:** broad shallow drill for body, head and horns, thinner rounded drill for legs, tail and detailing, gouging for large eye.

**Description:** stag facing right, with large dotted eye, horns to sides, four legs with small notches for hoofs, two forelegs bent, two hindlegs straight.

**Date/origin:** middle or early second half of 4th millennium, later Chalcolithic era, probably Gawra/early Uruk period, Syria, South-East (or South-Center) Anatolia, (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** unusual shape. Shape and position of perforation holes probably originate from the later Halaf and early Ubaid period smaller tear-drop or elongated pendant-amulet-seals with their perforation concealed on upper top back. Cf. WFC Nos. 67, 77, 88, 100. For similar location of perforation on rhomboid seal cf. WFC No. 190. The "point group 1" layout of the stag on base of the present pendant occurs in all the prehistoric glyptic cultures and in itself cannot date the piece. However, the stag's comparatively naturalistic representation and engraving style date the piece to the later Chalcolithic era. For naturalistic representations of animals on fairly large round base gable or hemispheroids cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 565 (crouching caprids with horns to sides, same engraving style of body and eye, Tell Brak, late Chalcolithic era), 571, 572 (Susa, late Chalcolithic era), 573 (Tepe Gawra, late Chalcolithic era). The representation of caprids with horns to sides occurs sporadically in the later Ubaid period and is frequently seen on Gawra/early Uruk period seals. Occasionally, and especially on gable seals, these horns are depicted as a row of small strokes, that is in an identical style to the present stag's horns. Occasionally the depiction of the caprid's head and eye on gable seals is also close or identical to that of the present stag's head. For gable seals cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 191.7 (Tell Judeideh, Amuq F); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 177.1, 178.1, 181.2; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 88 (similar horns depicted as a row of small strokes, bought Aleppo), 90 (bought Cilicia), 91 (bronze, bought near Antioch), 107 (individual horn depicted as a row of small strokes, bought Yuna in the Sajur Valley), 111 (bought Paris), 113, (bought Beirut) 114 (similar engraving style of head and eye, bought Paris), 116 (similar engraving style of head, bought Cilicia). Cf. also Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 157 (gable-hemispheroid with sub-rectangular base, two headed animal with similar horns depicted as a row of small strokes, Tepe Gawra, level X, Gawra/early Uruk period).



449

**Object:** white transparent rock crystal, 20.5x8x12mm. Fish or close wings fly-shaped three-dimensional amulet-pendant with full "body". Perforated near narrow end, on short axis. Perforation (3mm.) "acting" as eye.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium and thin drills.

**Description:** small groove indicating mouth. Two grooves above "eye." Two lines across back.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or early Dynastic period, North Syria, Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for the same type of fish seal-amulet carved in a less perfectly rounded ovoid shape with the perforation hole located in the same place cf. WFC No. 450 below. This is the only rock crystal piece in the WFC. Now missing.



450

**Object:** black and white mottled diorite, 29x16x8mm. Fish-shaped, three-dimensional amulet-pendant, with one rounded, bulged side and slightly thinner other side, sub-ovoid contour narrowing above "head". Perforated near "mouth's" end, on short axis. Perforation (3mm.) "acting" as fish's eye. Short chevron notch for mouth.

**Description:** short triangular notch ending in short groove indicating mouth. Larger linear groove continuing to linear cut on both sides indicating division of head from body. Small groove on back.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or early Dynastic period, North Syria, Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** a naturalistic, abstracted representation of fish, enhanced by the stone's colors. For fish amulet-pendants cf. Goff, No. 637 (Tepe Gawra, Nivite period); Mallowan 1947: Pl. XIV, no. 25 (with three-dimensional back, flat decorated base and large perforated drilled dot for inlay[?] on top of "head", Tell Brak, with bibliography, Jamdet Nasr period); Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 268 (Early Dynastic period), 270 (with similar perforation and groove decoration, Early Dynastic period, with bibliography); Doumet 1992: No. 15 (white marble, diagonal lines on back, earlier than 3rd millennium).



451

**Object:** olive green, dark green serpentine, 24x9x14mm. Uneven, elongated bulging three-dimensional fish-shaped(?) amulet-pendant, with uneven ovoid, rounded back contours cut to four connected facets on opposite side of perforation hole. Perforation (one end: 6x7mm.; other end: 4mm.) near top, on short axis. Perforation "acting" as "fish's" eye. Recently cleaned.

**Technique/Description:** three-dimensional human face mask cut with sharp drill and thinner drill for thin linear and curved lines for face features; comparatively very large, rounded perforation from both sides narrowing to very small perforation hole (2x1.5mm.) drilled with round drill with pointed end. Side A: two small grooves in front of encircled "eye" perforation hole, indicating fish's mouth. Side B: stylized human face or mask below perforation hole. Curved line indicating forehead or head line; slanting sub-oval/sub-triangular eyes with center in relief below straight eyebrows; center of eye contour continues in straight line down indicating cheeks; long, straight nose in high relief; small, straight, closed mouth in relief with line separating lips; curved chin line.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium, early Bronze Age, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or early Dynastic period, North Syria, Anatolia (Alisar horizon?), (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** type close to WFC No. 450 above. For similar shape cf. especially undecorated pendants from Amuq G in Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 252: 24-5, X3289. The human-face or mask on side B could have been a later, ancient addition to the "fish" pendant, or, but less likely, an original decoration. For earlier human masks cf. WFC No. 109. For similar human faces or masks on round or rectangular based seals cf. Von der Osten 1957: fig. 6, Nos. 51 (Alisar, b.2240), 52 (in the Louvre Collection, No. A1205), 54 (Alisar, b.2102), 55 (West Turkestan), 56 (North Syria).



452

**Object:** black serpentine, 24x13x5mm. Flat, semi-oval amulet-pendant, corrugated on lower half with flat, half ovoid top, and projecting, tiny oval base. Perforation (3mm.) near top on short axis.

**Description:** sides A and B: three deep grooves continuous from notch to notch on both sides forming swirling corrugation ending in few diagonal lines above perforation hole. Base: undecorated.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet-Nasr" period, North Iraq, North-East Iran, (Hissar III horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** an almost identical pendant, though slightly smaller, was found in Hissar III, cf. Schmidt 1937: Pl. LXVII, H3592. Cf. also the rounder, undecorated "vase"-shaped pendant from Tell Brak in Mallowan 1947: Pl. XX, No. 15 (Jamdet Nasr period, probably not later than 2900 B.C.).



453

**Object:** shining gray of various shades from blueish to dark, serpentine(?), 11.5x9.5x22mm. "Pod shaped" amulet-seal. Thin, slightly sloping ovoid with short, narrow, stem grooved on both sides above and elongated "egg-shaped" handle with flat, ovoid top; thin oval base. Perforation (3x4mm.) near top, on short axis. The narrow, grooved "stem" may have been used as second means of tying a cord.

**Technique:** beautifully made and carefully finished by grinding and polishing; fairly deep and shallower linear cut with medium size drill and thin drill with pointed end.

**Description:** line-filled cross with two, three or four short radiating strokes from edge in quadrants.

**Date/origin:** second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Uruk period, Amuq F or G horizon (probably Amuq F/Gawra/early Uruk period), North Syria.

**Discussion/comparanda:** unusual seal or pendant shape. However, undecorated and unperforated stone objects of similar sizes with affiliated shapes were excavated in Judeideh. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 69:1 ("stud", with long conoidal top, Amuq B), 102, pl. 71:13, 14, 255:1 ("stud", grooved above base, Amuq G), 190:11, 252:27, pl. 70:19, 33 pl. 71:7-8 ("drop-shaped" and "lotus-pods" pendants with small handle, Amuq G and F). Most of these pieces are very carefully and beautifully shaped, grinded, polished and neatly finished as our specimen, although none are of an identical shape. The large variety of pendant shapes found in Amuq F and especially in Amuq G, show a clear

tendency toward experimentation and individuality. Cruciform seal designs are common to both Amuq F and G Phases. The line-filled cross design has a long history. It is popular in the later Ubaid and the Gawra/early Uruk period. It rarely occurs in the later Uruk period. For identical base design on seals cf. WFC Nos. 192, 211, 223-4, 308. For the motif on a seal from the Amuq area cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig 101.3 (First Mixed Range).



Enlarged 3:1

454

**Object:** dark grey-black serpentine, 12.5x12.5x27.5mm. "Eye-goddess" amulet-idol pendant. Tall conoid back ending in wider, flattened sub-ovoid handle with narrow top, two grooves below handle, round base. Two handle perforations (one: 2.5x4,; other: 3x3.5mm.) near top edges, on short axis. The whole resembles stylized abstraction of human figure with short decorated neck, rounded flat top head and two eyes.

**Technique:** grinded and polished. Fairly deep, very wide cut with wide, blunt drill with fine, thin linear detailing and small drilled dot on it with thin drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** horse head facing right, wide neck with stroked mane, small ears, few, fine hair lines(?) in front of ears, raised eye dot, fine mouth line and curved lines from neck (harness?).

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period, North-Syria, South Anatolia (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** "Eye Symbols" of similar shapes and sizes are well known from various North Syrian, North Mesopotamian sites (mainly temples) of the Gawra/early Uruk, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" and Ninvite periods. An important sub-group of "Eye-Idols" has eyes perforated through the stone as in our example. See especially Goff 1963: figs. 441 (Sin Temple 4, Khafajah, Jamdet Nasr period), 561 (Tepe Gawra, Gawra period), 650-1 (Tell Brak, Ninvite period); Mallowan 1947: Pls. XXVI, Nos. 3-4, 8, 12, LI, Nos. 26-34 (Tell Brak, Jamdet Nasr period); Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 252:35, pl. 70:18 (Amuq G), 238:2 (baked clay pendant with one drilled hole through similar top, pointed base, Amuq G). The roundness of the present piece finds but few comparable examples from Tell Brak and the Amuq G examples. However, cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. LI, Nos. 27, 30-34; Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 252:35 (all with drilled through eyes). In size, curved top and general shape, the present piece is somewhat closer to some of the flatter, unperforated eye idols from Tell Brak (cf.

Mallowan 1947: Pl. LI, Nos. 10-11, 17) and Amuq G (cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig. 238:2). Excavated "Eye Figure Symbol" pendants have undecorated bases. For this reason and also since the motif of a horse head does not occur in the prehistoric or early historic glyptic repertoire it is possible that the horse head engraved on the base of the present piece is a later addition, either a later ancient engraving (from the Agade period?) or, but less likely a modern fake. However, on the base of stylistic considerations the horse head cannot be ruled out as an authentic early Uruk depiction. Von Wickede (1990: 267) stresses the popularity of animal head "busts" in this glyptic period: the appearance of new glyptic motifs such as wild boars and naturalistic Saluki dogs; and the employment of secondary lines, strokes or dots on animals' bodies to enhance certain body details. The decoration of human figures' bodies, caprids' and birds' bodies, as well as, horned heads with small rows of crosses, small dots, triangles, diagonal lines with divider and fairly thick small strokes is encountered already in the Northern early Ubaid period as a stylistic feature of Degirmentepe impressions and seals. Cf. Von Wickede ibid.: Nos. 347-349, 360, 362-367, 547, 550. In the Gawra/early Uruk period the specific use of lines, strokes or dots varies from region to region. Thus, on North-Syrian - South Anatolian gable seals parallel lines are cut on wild boars and other animals' sharp or flat cut bodies to stress their ribs and other body parts (cf. ibid.: Nos. 575 [Norsuntepe], 576 [Tell Brak]); small fine, parallel linear strokes and small dots occur occasionally on fairly naturalistic, flat cut bodies of animals and fish representations in the "Gwara Style" (cf. ibid.: Nos. 412 [Arpatchiya] 574 [Tepe Gawra]); and rows of dots or strokes are applied on more schematic, wide cut bodies of animals in the "Susa B Style" (cf. ibid.: Nos. 571, 572). According to Von Wickede (ibid.: 268) these stylistic characteristics disappear after the Gawra/early Uruk period. Thus, the present horse head depiction may very well be an extremely fine representation from the Gawra/early Uruk period and a new addition to the repertoire of that period. Mallowan has excavated in Tell Brak a "flattened ellipsoid... longitudinally perforated". Its base decoration depicts "a monster in the shape of a triple-headed long horned cow in the act of propagating a calf... and giving suck to a second calf at the same time". Mallowan, argues, on grounds of a parallel motif decorating an amulet in the Ashmolean Museum, for parallel motifs in the Agade period and later periods repertoire and, thus, for a "presumably... Agade period. Date c. 2300(?) B.C.". Cf. Mallowan 1947: 117-118, Pl. XVI, Nos. 8-9. The fine engraving style of the "monster" on this seal from Tell Brak, and especially its cow's head, are very close to the present horse's head. The shape of the Tell Brak piece is that of a carinated gable pearl with ovoid base. According to Von Wickede (1990: 258, Tab. 3) pearl seals of this shape are a product of the Ubaid and Gawra/early Uruk period. They disappear from the glyptic production of the later Uruk period or the historic eras. The motif of a three-headed caprid monster sucking its young does not occur on excavated prehistoric seals. However, the depiction of geometric and zoomorphic motifs in the triple-rotating symmetry is

a feature of Northern Gawra/early Uruk period glyptic. Cf. ibid.: 264. The Tell Brak piece and the present piece are a product of the same glyptic tradition.



455

**Object:** light green to black serpentine, 49x30.5x15.5mm. Frog shaped amulet-seal. Comparatively small ridge handle off center of back, not reaching back sides; sculptured back with deep grooves and notches emphasizing frog's shape; two protruding, encircled drilled holes for animal's eyes; flat, frog shaped base. Encircled drilled eyes probably for inlay with bitumen or semi-precious stone. Small perforation handle (3x2mm.) on short axis. Object broken in half and mended recently with modern glue.

**Technique:** deep, regular linear cut with fairly large medium drill.

**Description:** diagonal criss-cross design, evenly and fairly densely spaced.

**Date/origin:** 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, (or later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period?), Syria, North Iraq. (Tell Brak horizon?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** frog shaped glyptic pieces or sculptured pieces are one of the most common zoomorphic motifs in the late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasar" period and Early Dynastic periods. In these periods, the frog motif occurs in the Near Eastern glyptic in the form of unperforated, sculptured, naturalistic frogs with rounded back contours and deep back grooves emphasizing frog's shape; as smaller frog shaped seal-amulets or amulets with round or flat backs with fewer back grooves either

unperforated or perforated on short axis through bodies; and as small schematized frog shaped seal-amulets or amulets with small loop heads for suspension. All of these early Bronze Age frogs are represented without back handles.

Frog seal-amulets were found in a number of Mesopotamian sites (the largest numbers in Tell Brak) and in Iranian sites. Cf. Mallowan 1947: 107-8. In Tell Brak and other Northern sites these zoomorphic seal-amulets are sometimes carved in a flatter, more angular local style than the round, curved contour style of the South. Mallowan excavated more than 200 frog shaped amulet-seals of various sizes with eye holes for inlay in the Grey Brick stratum of the Eye-Temple at Tell Brak, dated to the earlier Jamdet-Nasr period, c. 3200 B.C. "The frog is more frequently represented in the Jamdet Nasr period at Brak than any other animal...it may have been a rain symbol" (ibid.: 100); "The frog perhaps symbolised the abundance and fertility of nature... its association at Brak with alabaster eye-idols, some of which may have been connected with childbirth, is significant..." (ibid.: 108). Most of these frog amulets from Tell Brak are of smaller dimensions than the present piece. Some of these are stylistically very similar to our specimen.

Two large sculptured frogs were also excavated by Mallowan at Tell Brak. One of them is of similar dimensions to our present piece. These Tell Brak frogs are carved in a sculptural conception with a thick, round back. Cf. ibid.: Pls. IX, figs. 1 (protruding eyes, no indication of base design, with lists of smaller frogs from Ur, Kish, Tello and other Mesopotamian sites of the early Dynastic period), 3 (traces of paint in left eye, same protruding encircled eyes as present piece, no indication of base design, Jamdet-Nasr period), XIV, figs. 1-5 (typical examples of some of the above mentioned 200 small frog-amulets, shell, bone, limestone, most have simple flat, grooved backs, circular depression for eyes, some with loop heads for suspension, no indication of base designs. "This type of frog amulet was exceedingly common in the Jamdet-Nasr period at Brak... there must be many hundreds more still embedded in the grey brickwork of the Eye-Temple platform" p. 108); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: 19-20; Von Wickede 1990: No. 622 (rounded back contours with few grooves, small suspension loop, similar protruding eyes, two rayed circles on base, Uruk, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1984: No. 279 (tortoise amulet, slightly different proportions, incised lines on back marking animal's shell, concave belly, pierced horizontally on each side, perforations not meeting, Late Uruk/Jemdet Nasr period, 3300-2900 B.C. No indication of base design).

Frog or toad amulets are also one of the more common amulet forms in Ancient Egypt. Here they occur in various shapes and sizes from prehistoric eras to the Ptolemaic period. For their meaning and use in Egypt cf. Petrie 1972: Nos. 18a-j; Andrews 1994: 10, 63, 94, Pls. 28h, 45h, 54b, 93b, 94. Most of the Egyptian frog/toad amulets are not seal-amulets for they have a plain base and all are without back handles. Although one group of Egyptian frog/toad amulets show affinities with the above mentioned large Tell Brak frog amulets (that is the wide frog/toads with

sculptured back, cf. ibid.), none represent similar or close features to the present frog seal-amulet. For the meanings of frogs in various prehistoric cultures cf. Gimbutas 1989: 250-6.

Ridge handle in center of back, such as the ridge handle on the back of the present frog seal-amulet, occurs most frequently on flat squarish and round based shaped seals from the Halaf and early North Ubaid periods. During the later Ubaid period the use of seals with a ridge handle gradually declines and in the later Chalcolithic era handles of this shape are found mainly on "button" seals with convex, round bases from Iran. In the later Uruk period animal seal-pendants and stamp seals with ridge handles disappear from the glyptic repertoire of shapes. However, the low ridge handle reappears occasionally in the later Uruk period on top of early solid cylinder seals. Cf. WFC No. 434 (decorated with similar diagonal criss-cross design). In early prehistoric glyptic excavated zoomorphic seal-amulets were found after the Neolithic period only in Halaf period glyptic where their numbers in comparison to other varieties of seal-amulets is small, they do not carry a ridge handle and the frog motif is not found among them. Thus, in its overall shape the present frog seal-amulet has no excavated parallel.

The diagonal criss-cross base design of the present frog seal-amulet does not help in dating the piece, for this decorative motif which originated in the Ceramic Neolithic, Amuq A period in Syria, is one of the most ancient and consistent layouts in all of prehistoric glyptic. It is one of the few geometric linear designs to appear also in the later Uruk period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 262, 264, Tab. 4. In the later Uruk period the diagonal criss-cross layout occasionally decorates the bases of seal-amulets. Cf. ibid.: No. 621 (anthropomorphic seal-amulet, Faruqabad, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 174-6 (small animal shaped amulet-seals, Tell Brak, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period). Cf. also WFC No. 434. Protruding encircled eyes, similar to those of the present frog amulet-seal, are found on early Bronze Age seal-amulets from Tell Brak, South Mesopotamia and Susa. Cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. VIII, Nos. 1 (anthropomorphic seal-amulet, Tell Brak), 4 (eagle shaped seal-amulet, Tell Brak), Pl. IX, No. 3 (sculptured frog, Tell Brak); Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 622 (frog shaped seal-amulet, Uruk), 623 (eagle shaped seal-amulet, Susa), 625 (sheep head shaped seal-amulet, Kis). These later prehistoric protruding drilled encircled eyes seem to continue the earlier North Mesopotamian and Syrian Halaf period and early Ubaid glyptic stylistic decorative representation of encircled drilled dots, or to derive from them. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 128, 129, 207, 214.

The present piece is probably a later Uruk period product in the local Northern tradition with its ridge-handle originating in much earlier local traditions or influenced by the reoccurrence of the ridge handle on solid cylinder seals, or, and less likely, an earlier, transitional product in the same local tradition. If the piece dates from the later Ubaid period or the Gawra/early Uruk period it may represent the missing link(?) between the Halaf period zoomorphic animal shaped seal-amulets and the later Uruk period ones. Cf. ibid.: 256, Tab. 3.



456

**Object:** grey-cream serpentine, 26.5x11x13.5mm. Reclining sheep or ram figure amulet-seal, uneven sub-rectangular base with rounded corners and three small, angular notches. Small perforation (2.5x3mm.) in center of animal's body, on short axis. Broken on one side and base edge. Much worn.

**Technique:** reclining sheep or ram: elongated rounded volumes with small, fine grooves emphasizing body lines, head slightly turned forward, small curled horns. Base: deep linear cut with broad medium size drill with sharp angular edge.

**Description:** base: stylised animal facing right with two legs in opposite direction to perforation (goat or wild ass) and three large filling motifs above.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, North Syria, North Iraq, (Tell Brak horizon).

**Discussion/comparanda:** common shape and motif of later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period seal-amulets mainly from Southern locations, but also from Northern sites. The production of these Northern pieces was influenced by the current Southern fashion. For similar caprids with rounded backs and turned heads cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 612 (different base engraving technique, Satt al-Iqrayim), 614 (same base engraving technique, Tell Brak), 615 (different base engraving technique, Ur), 616 (different base engraving technique, Tell Brak), 617 (different base engraving technique, Tello). For very similar shape, cut and place of perforation cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. XVI, No. 6 (panther?, Tell Brak). Base engraving style and motif are typical of Tell Brak glyptic, where they occur on a variety of seal-shapes such as kidney shaped seals, pearl seals and tabloids, as well as on the bases of zoomorphic and anthropomorphic seal-amulets. This engraving technique is not found on the bases of Southern seal-amulets. For examples of the said engraving style on bases of seal-amulets from Tell Brak cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 614 (above), 620 (anthropomorphic seal-amulet); Mallowan 1947: Pl. XIII, Nos. 3 (ram), 4 (hare), 5 (ram?), 6 (lion); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 168 (reclining bovid, head turned slightly forward), 169 (reclining dog?). Cf. also ibid.: No. 177 (hedgehog? bought Jerablus, perhaps from Bostepe, West Mesopotamia).



457

**Object:** cream, light brown bone, 28.5x15x7.5mm. Reclining animal (caprid, dog?) figure amulet-seal; irregular, elongated sub-void base. Perforation (2.5x3mm.) on short axis, near base. Broken head and side, chipped and much worn.

**Technique:** reclining animal: beautiful, large, round volumes with deep groove emphasizing division of head from body and short groove for leg; head turned to side, not detached from body. Base: deep linear cut with broad medium size drill with sharp angular edge.

**Description:** base: stylised caprids and filling motifs(?)

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, Syria or North Iraq, Tell Brak horizon.

**Discussion/comparanda:** most of the later Uruk period figure amulet-seals were carved in stones, and other, occasionally were carved in shell. Bone is a comparatively rare material and it is not found among the figure-seals from Susa. However, in Tell Brak bone was frequently used to manufacture animal shaped amulet-seals of similar curved backs, cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. XI, Nos. 3 (beautifully carved ram with head turned to side, same engraving style as present piece), 4 (duck with head turned back), 5 (lion, all from "Grey Brick Stratum"); Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 170 (reclining lion, four lines, Tell Brak G93), 171 (reclining lion, more naturalistic than No. 170, schematic animal?, Tell Brak), 175 (reclining animal, criss-cross pattern, Tell Brak). All the above examples in Buchanan/Moorey are smaller and more schematized than the present piece. For the engraving base style cf. WFC No. 456 above.



458

**Object:** dark and light green mottled diorite, 26x15x24.5mm. Reclining bull (or calf) figure seal-amulet above rectangular base with rounded corners. Perforation (4x5mm.) between forward and hind legs above base, on short axis.

**Technique:** reclining bull or calf with head forward:

rounded volumes, large eye drill holes (one: 3.5x4mm., other: 4mm.; depth of both: 2.5mm.) and large, deeper hole (4x8.; depth: one end: 6mm., other end: 10mm.) between forelegs and hindlegs probably for inlay; two grooves indicating tail, groove on head before ears, groove on back and groove above base. Base: fairly deep drilled dots and holes cut with round drills of various sizes. Some of the drilled holes linked together to form continuous rounded, broad lines and thinner linear cut with medium size and thin drills.

**Description:** base: reclining calf(?) or goat with head turned back.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium, late Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period (or early Dynastic period), South Iraq and Susiana.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape, base motif and technique are typical of later Uruk period glyptic. According to Von Wickede (1990: 256, Tab. 3) these sculptured animal-shaped seal-amulets do not continue into the early Dynastic period. Other scholars believe that this category of seal-amulets is continued well into the Dynastic period (cf. below). Reclining (or standing) bulls, calves or sheep are among the most common animals depicted as sculptured seal-amulets. Most examples, however, represent these animals with their heads turned backward to one side. Examples representing these animals with their heads forward, as in the present piece, are less common. This is probably a Northern feature. For examples of the latter head pose cf. Mallowan 1947: Pl. XV, Nos. 4 (bull, more schematic than present piece, Tell Brak, c. 2900-2500, early Dynastic period), 25 (sheep, Tell Brak); Erlenmeyer 1989: No. 257 (Late Uruk/Jamdet Nasr period, 3300-2900), 269 (reclining bull or calf with similar raised base, Early Dynastic period, 2900-2350 B.C.), 274 (drilled holes on base, left eye with disc inlay, more simplified than our piece, Early Dynastic period, 2900-2350 B.C.). The motif and the engraving technique of the present base motif are a beautiful example of later Uruk period glyptic. Large holed eyes for inlay are a common feature on many figured animal-shaped amulet-seals of this period representing drilled worked animals on base.

### (C) Discoid, medium size and large baked clay handled seals

The WFC has 1 large baked clay discoid and 7 large baked clay handled 'estampilles' or clay seals of various shapes and sizes. The nature and presumed use of each piece are stated below.



175

459

**Object:** cream-pink baked clay with black from fire, 38.5x37.5x10mm. Irregular bi-faced "discoid", close to lentoid; irregular round convex back and base. Not perforated. If suspended, possibly tied around wider contour.

**Technique:** base: large, shallow, irregular ovoid depressions of various sizes (4x5mm. or 4x6mm. or 5x6mm. or 6x8mm. or 7x7mm. or 6x12mm.) and depths (0.5mm. to 2mm. each) "dug" with implement or blunt drill but most probably done by hand; back: finger and linear (fabric, matting or cord) impressions.

**Description:** base: radiating design of two concentric circles: five depressions in circle within ten depressions in outer circle.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-early 3rd millennium, South Iraq, Susiana, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the use of this object as a proper seal is doubtful. In its shape and material it recalls some "Poids de filet" from Khiroktila. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 29.3, 4. Similarly shaped, unperforated seals were found at Tello and Susa. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: 167, T37 (baked clay, man and animal design, Tello, Jamdet-Nasr period); Delaporte 1920: No. S.74 (limestone, drilled dot cruciform design, Susa, Jamdet-Nasr period). Technique of depressions, as well as motif are typical to later Uruk period. For similar dot designs on smaller hemispheroids and handled seals from this period cf. WFC Nos. 322-3, 332; Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 417 (large hemispheroid, Nuzi-Yorgan Tepe), T14-17, T19 (large hemispheroids, Tello); Delaporte 1920: Nos. S.83-4 (Susa); Amiet 1972: Nos. 326 (large hemispheroid, similar type of drilled dots and design, Susa C).



460

**Object:** cream baked clay, 36x21x19.5mm. Broken handle below perforation, on back slightly off center of thick, irregular back, concave on wide sides below handle, conoidal-pyramidal on narrow sides; thick, slightly convex, rectangular base with rounded corners.

**Technique:** fairly deep linear cut with medium size, rounded implement.

**Description:** diagonal lines. Short parallel diagonal lines in three rows - in opposite directions - forming zigzag design.

**Date/origin:** later 5th-mid 4th millennium, probably Ubaid period, North Iraq, Syria (or Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for identical or very similar designs on rectangular based items from Tepe Gawra, Level XIII, Ubaid period cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: Figs. 16 (impression, with vertical lines between diagonals, level XIII-Well), 27 (lentoid, rounded-corner rectangular base, identical design, level XIII). Most of the 18 large backed clay seals - "éstampilles" with various handles and convex bases found at Susiana A are larger than the present piece and only a few have a rectangular base. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 60-77. For backed clay seals with rectangular base and similar base design from Susiana cf. ibid.: Nos. 60 (larger, double zigzags in center, with large drilled holes and central line, p. 7: "from Tepe Bendebal, probably contemporary with early Ubaid period"), 61 (larger, deep geometric design: lines and zigzags). For pieces of similar size to present seal, but with an ovoid base, cf. ibid.: Nos. 75 (row of chevrons), 76-7. Similar, though not identical designs to that of present seal occur on seals of various shapes (including gable seals) from Amuq F and G. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Figs. 191:1-2, 6 (Amuq F), 308:9 (Amuq F, G or possibly H); Buchanan 1981: Nos. 15 (Ubaid period), 16 (Ubaid period). Zigzag patterns are also one of the more common base motifs on Syrian Neolithic seals and impressions and on South-East European Neolithic and later clay pieces from various sites. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 4, 6, 9, 11-13; Makkay 1984: 12, 14, 53-5, 76, 89, 124-5, 164-5, 167, 276, 279, 283. However, none of these Neolithic specimens depict an identical, rigid symmetrical zigzag layout to that of the present item.



**Object:** pink-beige backed clay, 35x28x15mm. Central ridge handle, concave on sides of handle with finger prints of maker; convex ovoid base. Broken handle with smaller secondary ancient perforation (3mm. wide) in center of original perforation (6mm. wide). Both perforations on short axis. Short broad grooves on narrow ends of back. Broken on back in center of perforations and on back side and chipped on base.

**Technique:** fairly deep, broad and narrow linear cut with rounded implements.

**Description:** undeciphered motifs. Or: radiating animals and linear motifs. Four legged goat to right above curved linear motif (serpent?), two legged animal (dog?) to left above short linear motif, angular and radiating linear motifs from edge to empty center.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, Uruk periods (probably early later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period), North Iraq, Western Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** for clay seals of similar shape with non figurative linear designs of similar broad cut cf. Von. Wickede 1990: Abb. 26.1-4, 6-8 (Byblos). A similar radiating pattern and engraving style occurs on a large backed clay seal from Susiana. Cf. Amiet 1972: 35, No. 209 (radiating linear design with serpents, animal-headed human figure and architectural motif. "Certain cachets de ce group ont une telle convexite [209] leur caractere sigillaire est douteux", Susa B[?]). The two pieces are of the same general date but the linear composition on the Susiana seal is much more regular and symmetrical than that of the present piece. Radiating lines of identical shape, cut, similar haphazard arrangement and a very stylized two legged animal occur on a hemispheroid from Tepe Gawra, level VIII. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 178 (level VIII, transitional period between Uruk and Jamdet Nasr periods). Large stem clay seal with linear radiating design of same cut was also found in the same level at Tepe Gawra, cf. ibid.: fig. 179.



**Object:** dark grey-brown baked clay, 45x45x32mm. Unperforated zoomorphic columnar stem handle in center of slightly sloping round back; round base.

**Technique:** very deep linear and curved cut with wide implement and drilled holes with large and thinner drills. Sculptural handle top with small drilled dots and strokes.

**Description:** calf, bear or cat shaped handle. Handle top ending in two small ears with two strokes between them; two drilled eyes; two smaller drilled nose holes; grooves near lower back. Back: four encircled drilled holes through base (5mm. or 6mm.) with diagonal line between two holes. Base: developed radiating geometric design, circle and four drilled holes. Stylized flower? Two joined squares forming sub-rectangle within lozenge, within arched square, within larger arched square forming contoured "Maltese cross" with drilled hole through base in each corner. The whole within circle.

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (or Gawra/early Uruk period), East Anatolia, North Iraq, (or North Syria, Western Iran).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for a similarly shaped clay "pintaderas" with a shorter handle cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 23.2 (Zingiril, 3rd millennium). For a copper seal with a similarly shaped handle to that of the present seal, though not zoomorphic, cf. Schmidt 1937: No. H2183 (Hissar IIB). Encircled drilled holes through squarish or rectangular bases with or without additional linear designs occur on stone handled seals from the early Ubaid period and are typical of Syrian glyptic. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 167:3, 4; Buchanan 1981: No. 13; Buchanan/Moorey 1984: Nos. 14-17. On clay "pintaderas" or clay seals drilled holes through base are rare. However cf. Von der Osten 1957: No. 2 (baked clay, encircled drilled hole in center with four drilled holes on its side, all drilled through base, surrounded by double arched frame, Iranian). A circular frame with enclosed linear motifs is a fairly common later Ubaid period motif. Cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 67 (large round base clay "éstampilles", very similar linear design, Susa A), 68 (large round base clay "éstampilles", Susa A). Cf. also Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 52 (round impression, cross within sub-square frame, Tepe Gawra, level XII), 54 (low hemispheroid, multi framed flower, Tepe Gawra, level XII). In the later Ubaid period the symmetrical "point group 4mm" layout resembling the "Maltese cross" develops from the simpler cross-like layouts typical of this period. The motif develops in the Gawra/early Uruk period to a more formal "Maltese cross-like" layout. These similar layouts are found in the glyptic of both periods on specimens from North Iraq and East Anatolia. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 345, 346 (square impressions, Degrimentepe, later Ubaid period), 534 (hemispheroid, Tepe Gawra, Gawra/early Uruk period), 535 (reel-shape, Arslantepe, Gawra/early Uruk period). A close motif also decorates a stone seal from Greece. Cf. Makkay 1984: No. 271 (short perforated handle, double framed "sub-Maltese cross-like" layout with cross in

center, Tsangli magula, Thessaly, Early or Middle Neolithic). Zoomorphic stem handles of much more developed and naturalistic nature than on the present item are a common feature of much later (ca. 1250-1000 B.C.) bronze seals with round bases from the South-West Caspian Region (Luristan etc.). The base designs of these seals usually depict earlier type geometric patterns and occasionally also zoomorphic motifs.



**Object:** cream-brown baked clay, 41x41x22mm. Bolt handle (or short stalk handle), sloping off center of high sloping back, round base. Large handle perforation (one side: 10mm.; other side: 10x8mm.) reaching back. Chipped and broken base.

**Technique:** deep drilled holes (7x5mm. or 6x5mm. or 6x6mm.; depth: 5mm. or 6mm.) "dug" with large, round implement and shallower lines cut with thin, sharp implement.

**Description:** cross with central drilled hole within eight drilled holes arranged in circle. Flower pattern(?)

**Date/origin:** first half or middle of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period or Gawra/early Uruk period, Western Iran (Susa A horizon) or Iraq, South-East Anatolia.

**Discussion/comparanda:** large baked clay seals of similar or identical shape with convex or flat bases were found in Susa, Tello, and Tepe Gawra. Cf. Delaporte 1920: Nos. S.29, S.30, S.31, S.32 (Susa), T.9 (drilled holes forming a representation of quadrupeds, grooves on sides, Tello); Amiet 1972: Nos. 62, 68-70 (flat base, Susa A), 71 (Susa A); Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 179 (radiating lines, Tepe Gawra, level VIII, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period). Their designs are deeply cut into the clay, and most are decorated with angle-filled cross but occasionally also with linear designs. Some are decorated with linear patterns with one dot or many dots or with figural subjects. For an identically shaped burned clay seal of smaller dimensions and a similar design cf. Amiet 1972: No. 59 (encircled cross with two or three drilled dots in quadrants, Susa A). Cf. also Buchanan 1981: No. 26 (stone disc, similar design to present piece, Western Iran). The strict cross-like symmetrical "point group 1" layout of the present seal is most typical of later Ubaid and Gawra/early Uruk periods glyptic. For an almost identically shaped clay seal of similar dimensions decorated with large drilled holes in center of a non cross-like layout cf. Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 23.1 (three drilled holes encircled swirling strokes, Zingirli, 3rd millennium). For a smaller clay handled piece with similar base design

of large, deep depressions cf. Makkay 1984: No. 159 (central drilled hole within circle of six drilled holes, Nea Nikomedea, Greece, Neolithic era).

178



464

**Object:** light-brown, cream chalk, 43x41.5x28mm. Large ridge handle on comparatively high sloping back, sub-circular, slightly convex base. Grooved below handle. Handle perforation (10 mm.) reaching back. Base broken and half of design chipped off.

**Technique:** deep drilled depressions (9x10mm., depth: 7mm. and 5x6mm., depth: 5mm.) and lines with large and medium sized implements with round, blunt and sharp ends..

**Description:** irregular linear crossing design with large central drilled hole and two smaller drilled holes near edge.

**Date/origin:** first half of 4th millennium (or later), Western Iran, Susa A horizon (or later).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for similarly shaped large baked clay seals combining drilled holes and line designs from Susa A cf. Amiet 1972: Nos. 59 (cross with drilled holes in quadrants), 70 (drilled hole within circle, curved line enclosing, drilled hole outside of circle), 71 (chevron-filled cross). For similar design on a flattened hemispheroid cf. Buchanan 1981: No. 31 (Ubaid or later periods, with lists). Cf. also the irregular arrangement of similar lines holes on an hemispheroid from Tepe Gawra in Homes-Fredericq 1970: Fig. 178 (without drilled holes, level VIII, transitional period between Uruk and Jamdet Nasr) and on an impression from Susa in Amiet 1972: No. 159 (with drilled hole, found below level A).



465

**Object:** cream baked clay, 53.5x54x68mm. Tall columnar stem handle slightly off center of comparatively high grooved back, back slightly concave below stem handle and sloping near edge, low, slightly pointed handle top; round, slightly concave base. Handle perforation (one end: 7x9mm.; other end: 5x6mm.) near top. Base and lower back's rim broken and chipped off.

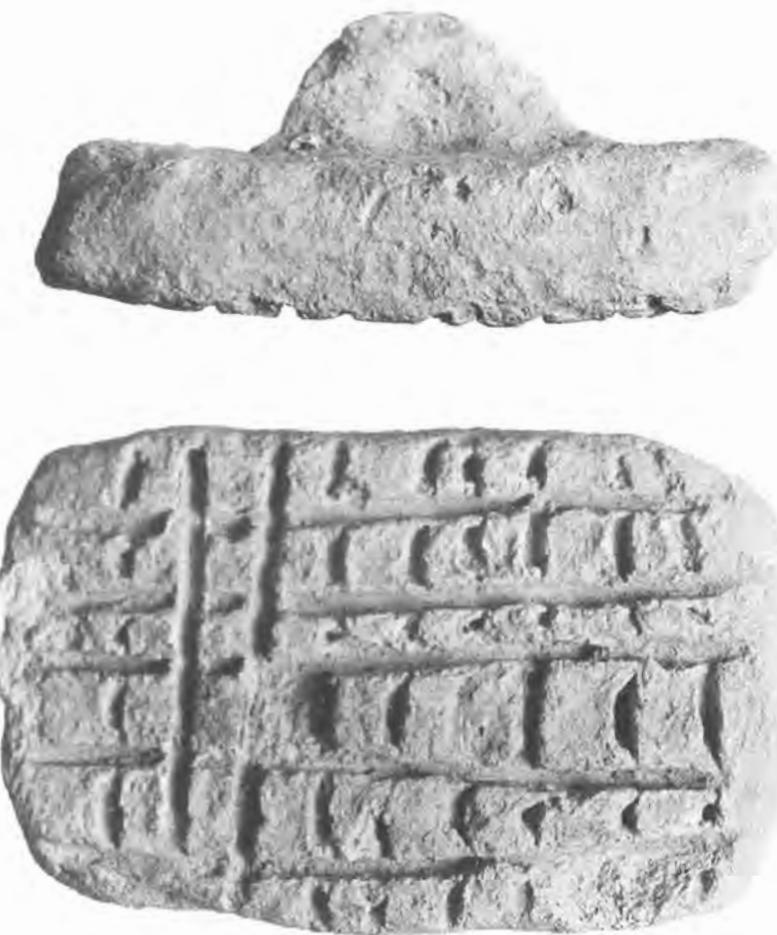
**Technique:** deep cut with wide, rounded and blunt implements with pointed and angular ends.

**Description:** radiating design (or sub-cross design with additional lines). Five lines toward center (not meeting) with two diagonal lines above one line (forming "arrow" shape), and diagonal (or slightly curved) line crossing another line.

**Date/origin:** middle or second half of 4th millennium, Gawra/early Uruk period or transitional to Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, Western Iran or North Iraq.

**Discussion/comparanda:** bread or cloth stamp? For base design and deep linear cut on large burned clay pieces cf. especially Amiet 1972: No. 62 (Ubaid II, Susa A), and Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 179 (Tepe Gawra, level VIII, transitional between Uruk and Jamdet Nasr periods). The tall stem has no parallel among the large clay pieces from Susa or Tepe Gawra. However, in its shape the present piece is close to smaller rare-shaped seals from both sites, but especially to a piece from Susa. Cf. Amiet 1972: No. 56 (bitumen, Susa A); Homes-

Frederiq 1970: fig. 125 (burnt clay, Tepe Gawra, level XI-A, Uruk period). For shape see also the serpentine stalk-handled seal in Buchanan 1981: No. 12 and for the high stem cf. WFC No. 462.



466

**Object:** light brown, cream-yellowish unbaked clay. 98x61.5x40.5mm. Large, comparatively low, loop shaped handle with cavities for holding on two wider sides. Unperforated handle in center of fairly flat high back; rectangular base with rounded corners. Broken and chipped on base.

**Technique:** very deep gouging and linear cuts with large and smaller implements with round, angular and sharp ends. Longer "lines" cut in one continuous line; shorter "lines" cut in small individual lines. Some of the shorter "lines" are deep gouging holes.

**Description:** grid criss-cross design with squares and rectangles.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium, later Chalcolithic era or early Bronze Age, early Uruk period, or later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period, or Early Dynastic A period (Nienh 5), Iraq, Western Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** the large size of the present object suggests a similar use to that of WFC No. 466 above, but more distinctively for institutional use (temples?). Although the present symmetrical linear design could have been used for the application of a

simple repetitive sub-symmetrical decorative patterns on cloth or on similar organic materials, it could also represent early computation marks or tokens. The large rectangular base face of the present piece connects it with the earliest writing tablets some of which "bear only numerals and seal impressions but others have cut or impressed signs." (Collon 1993: 13). The present clay seal probably represents a transitional link between the clay seals and the earliest "writing tablets". A criss-cross design is one of the earliest glyptic patterns. It is also one of the few geometric linear designs whose glyptic use is continued well into the later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period and the early Dynastic period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 265. However, the criss-cross design on the present piece is a rare combination of "band groups p2mm and p4mm" layouts (for the basic grid) with "band group p111" layout with straight lines instead of the typical diagonal lines of "band group p111" layout. (The latter layout is typical of later Ubaid period glyptic and is not included in the repertoire of later glyptic cultures). An identical combination of grid criss-cross layout is not found on excavated stamp seals. For shape and a similar combination of deep lines and gouging cf. especially Amiet 1972: Nos. 60 (Tepe Bendbal, probably Early Ubaid), 61 (Susa A). For similar, fairly coarse criss-cross design on round based seals cf. Homes-Frederiq 1970: fig. 443 (large burnt clay "button", Uruk, Jamdet Nasr period); Buchanan 1981: No. 25 (large marble "button", said to be from Tepe Giyan). No identical pattern has been found on cylinder seals. On these glyptic objects the closest geometric linear designs are found on small Jamdet Nasr period cylinder seals which have a tendency toward "simple linear patterns, such as a cross-hatching, zigzags, rhomboids and herringbones cut on a variety of stones." Teissier 1984: 5, Nos. 22, 25-36 (c. 3100-2900 B.C.). Similarly shaped large clay "seals" with perforated handles and large rectangular base occur sporadically also among South-East European "seals". Cf. Makkay 1984: No. 1124 (transversal zigzag design, Kunszentmarton-Jaksorerpert, Hungary, early Neolithic era).

## D. Unusually Shaped Seal and Problematic Seals

180



467

**Object:** brown burnt clay, black from fire, 25x24x14 mm. Spindle whorl with strongly convex base and top (almost bi-conoid close to lentoid). Central perforation (7x8 mm.) through base, on short axis.

**Technique:** linear and curved cut with medium size and thin drills and deeper drilled dots on lines, on line ends or in field with small drill with round end; perforation from both sides with tubular drill with remnants of higher clay around perforation holes (higher clay remnants and hole: 9x11 mm.).

**Description:** side A: frontal human figure standing with large encircled head, body line above straight legs, one foot to right, outstretched hands ending in small drilled dots, right hand touching(?) "eye" or "leaf" motif on right. Left hand raised toward large horned caprid facing left on other side; two snakes (or curved branches) one above the other between said animal and "eye" motif; drilled dots and small filling motifs in field. Side B in circle to right: large quatrefoil flower with encircled center and smaller quatrefoil (or cross) below; frontal human figure standing with encircled head, body line above straight legs, feet slightly turned to side, outstretched right hand holding large straight club, stick or large branch, raised left hand touching(?) next motif; enclosed shape with two triangular peaks, small diagonal lines and drilled dot on top of "peaks" and three drilled dots in center (two mountains?, architectural motif [tent?] or unidentified object [altar?]); large quatrefoil flower; large leaf; frontal human figure with hands raised above head and belt (or unidentified linear motif) horizontal to other motifs.

**Date/origin:** later 5th-first half of 4th millennium, later Ubaid period (or transitional period between early to later Ubaid periods), North Syria, South-East Anatolia (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** for undecorated spindle whorls of same shape, size and material from the Amuq area cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Pl. 48.5, 8, 9, figs. 58:8 (Amuq B), 118:3 (Amuq C), 160:2,3 (similar, though more ovoid in shape, Amuq E). For similarly shaped spindle whorls decorated with radiating strokes, dots and concentric lines cf. Goff 1963: figs. 56 (Matarrah, Hassuna period), 559 (terra-cotta, Tepe Gawra, Gawra period). Cf. also Erlenmeyer 1989: Nos. 210.1 (incised branch motif on upper surface, petal design on base), 2-6 (circle and linear designs, probably from Iran, 4th millennium). The

circular arrangement of human figures and animals in free rotating layout, as well as the profuse use of floral, "leaf" and "eye" ornamentations as sole motifs or as filling motifs in zoomorphic and anthropomorphic scenes are characteristics of later Ubaid glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 263, 265, No. 359 (impressions, human with small round head, Degirmen-tepe). For impressions from Tepe Gawra with human figures with triangular chests cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 12 (ovoid impression, level XVI), 24-25 (fig. 25: human figure in similar pose, level XIII-Well), 36 (level XII-Well), 38 (human figure in similar pose, level XII). The representation of linear human figures with body line dividing body from legs as on the present piece is a characteristic of early Ubaid period. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 227 (different head and no floral filling motifs, Tell al-'Uwaili).



468

**Object:** white-yellowish, light brown limestone, 48x29 mm. Large bead-seal in shape of prolate spheroid "pearl" with pointed ends and circular side profile. Perforation (5 mm.) on long axis. Slightly chipped near one perforation end. Purchased in Jerusalem market.

**Technique:** sharp, thin, thread-like linear cut with no volume with medium size and thin drills with sharp ends.

**Description:** motifs difficult to "read", two possibilities: A. human figures, animals and filling motifs covering whole width of bead-seal; B. decorative linear frame enclosing human figures and animals.

A (first reading). Human figures, goat or gazelle, cross, filling motifs loosely arranged in two registers with some motifs spilling into other "register". "Upper register": striding human figure to left, with raised hands holding curved object (bow?) in left hand and straight object (arrow or club) in other hand; filling motifs or headless(?) human figure "walking" to left with outstretched arms; elongated linear motif (club or arrow) held by said headless human figure in "lower register"; goat or gazelle facing left beside striding human figure to right, holding short implements with outstretched hands, wearing projecting belt or sword. "Lower register":

cross; animal(?) facing right above unidentified motif or implement of human figure on right with linear motifs below; striding human figure to left with outstretched arms holding curved implement(?); linear motif: belt or sword of former human figure; headless human figure with raised hands.

B (second reading). "Upper frame": open angles on top of line; "lower frame": open angles with central line; human and animal figures.

**Date/origin:** second half 5th-first half of 4th millennium, Chalcolithic era, probably later Ubaid period, North Iraq, South West Anatolia, North Syria, or North-West Iran.

**Discussion/comparanda:** unusually large "bead"-seal of problematic origin. No perforated and decorated seal-bead of this shape and exact engraving style has been found in excavations. In the Amuq area unperforated "sling missile stones" of similar shape and size are common from the Ceramic Neolithic period to the later Chalcolithic era. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: figs. 35:4, pl. 68:18-19 (limestone, same shape as our piece, Amuq A), 118:4 (baked clay, Kurdu, Amuq C), 132:2 (baked clay, Kurdu, Amuq D), 160.4-7 (sixteen baked clay pieces, ranging in size from smaller pieces to pieces of same size as our piece, Kurdu, Amuq E). Undecorated clay or smaller perforated chalcedony beads of the same shape occur also in Hissar IIIB-C. Cf. Schmidt 1937: No. H1705 (unperforated, unbaked clay), H3592.1 (chalcedony bead, perforated on long axis, H3594.1, 2 (marble[?], truncated ends), 4 (chalcedony), H4322 (chalcedony). In their shape and location of perforation the Hissar beads probably continue the Amuq tradition or were influenced by it, and are close to our piece. They differ from the present bead mainly in their harder polished material, size and undecorated surface. Among the various groups of seal shapes, the nearest in terms of shape to that of the present bead-seal are found within the lentoid pearl seals. Both have a long axis perforation, a similar lentoid, or almost round perforation side profile and elongated proportions. Pearl seals with these characteristics begin to appear in the Halaf period, but are most common in the Ubaid period when they occur in a variety of shapes.

Similar human figures to the thin, schematic, animated human forms portrayed on the present bead-seal occur in the famous wall paintings from Çatal Hüyük (c. 6200-5300 B.C.). These human figures are found mainly in scenes where they are under attack by vultures, but occur also among the "hunting-dancing" scenes. Cf. Otes/Otes 1976: 93; Temizsoy 1992: 22-3; Settegast 1986: figs. 99 (east wall of shrine VIII,8, ca. 59/5800 B.C.), 100 (west wall of shrine VII, 21). In its thread-like form and posture the headless human figure from the west wall of shrine VII,2 at Çatal Hüyük is identical to that of the headless human figure on the lower register of our bead-seal. (The only minor difference between the two is in the slightly different angle of their legs. However, in both cases the legs "grow" symmetrically from a thin linear body). The headed human figures on our bead-seal resemble the "hunter-dancers" figures of the Çatal Hüyük murals, but especially the figures from the Hunting Shrine, level V. Among the latter also appear some headless figures. Cf. ibid.: fig. 106 (west wall), 100 (north wall). Most of these

Çatal Hüyük figures differ from our human forms in their slightly fuller bicolored bodies and "egg-shaped" heads. Their thin, "shadow-like" figures are portrayed in similar postures to the postures of the human figures on our piece and some are almost identical in their thinness; they carry bows and arrows, clubs and axes and are dressed in skins with one or more tails. The "belt or sword" on the "upper register" figure (and probably on one of the "lower register" figures of the present bead-seal) may also represent such a tailed-skin belt. The huge animals in the center of Hunting Shrine V. murals at Çatal Hüyük have no parallel on the stone. For various interpretations of these scenes and later murals with headless human forms cf. Stettegast 1986: 175-80, 183-5. The relationships between mural depictions and seal motifs (even more than those between drawings on pot sherds and seals) are problematic in any given period. They are even more so in this case since we deal with Neolithic Çatal Hüyük, a pre-glyptic society whose only excavated "seals" are "pintaderas" with geometric base designs. Their function as proper seals is doubtful. No seal-bead of similar shape, material, technique and decoration to that of the present piece has been found at Çatal Hüyük. The "pintaderas" from Çatal Hüyük were found in burials (mainly of men) from levels VI-II. They are made of clay and are of very different form than the present item. They are large handled pieces (for example: height 33mm.) or smaller pieces with ovoid, quatrefoil or round bases decorated with deeply cut linear, spiral, chevron or dot geometric designs and without zoomorphic or anthropomorphic depictions. Cf. Seltegast 1986: 167-8, fig. 94; Temizsoy 1992: No. 33; Von Wickede 1990: Abb. 24.1-10 (including pieces from Hacilicar). The figurative relationships between the figures on the Çatal Hüyük murals and the figures on the present bead-seal cannot in themselves suffice to date the present piece to that early era and the Çatal Hüyük murals are stated here only as reference to the early appearance of the motifs and not as direct reference.

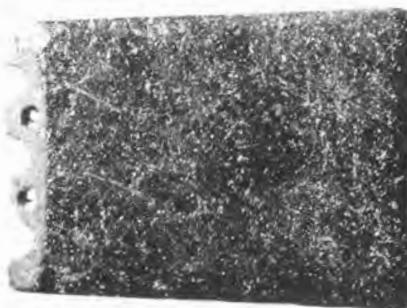
The zoomorphic and anthropomorphic free rotating layout decoration on the present bead-seal is typical of later Ubaid glyptic. Thread-like human figures with raised hands cut in linear engraving style with no body volume are found occasionally decorating later Chalcolithic era seals. Human figures of elongated proportions are a trait of Gawra/early Uruk period glyptic. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: 266, No. 555 (low hemispheroid, oval convex base, human figure with raised hands holding linear implements, thin linear head turned to left, rounded motif on side, Gawra, level XI-A, later Chalcolithic era); Homes-Fredericq, Nos. 171 (large hemispheroid, three and two-fingered human figure with legs to right, thin elongated head, long necked animal in front turning head to human, spray or bird on other side, Tepe Gawra, level X, Uruk period); Vollenweider 1967: No. 7 (bi-convex lentoid or elongated disc: a. three-fingered human in posture of "Lord of Animals", below serpent, on side; caprid and other serpents[?]; b. same person, hands to sides, quadruped: lion or panther, probably from region of Tepe Giyan); Amiet 1972: No. 68 (large round based clay pintaderas, encircled design divided by central line with

human figure, dog(?), animals, serpents, Tepe Djaffarabad, earliest Susa A, deeper cut than our piece); Buchanan 1981: No. 70 (large carinated oval hemispheroid, three-fingered ibex headed demon to left; above spread winged bird; below linear outlined beast; to right above horned animal head[?]; below two snakes[?], Western Iran). Human figures with triangular chests and side belt or sword are also found occasionally on seals from the later Ubaid period or the Gawra/early Uruk period from Tepe Gawra. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: figs. 24 (round impression, level XII-Well, Ubaid II period), 150 (square impression, level XI, Uruk period).

Thus, the occurrence of limestone "sling stones" of identical shape to our piece in the Amuq during the Neolithic era and the close resemblance between the motifs and the type of figures on the present stone and the murals at Çatal Hüyük could have suggest a provenance in the 6th millennium Anatolian-North-West Syrian horizon. However, since slings of this shape continue well into the 5th millennium and are especially common in the later Ubaid period, and since no seal decorated with anthropomorphic design is known before the Hassuna-Samarra period of the 6th millennium a date in that millennium seems very doubtful. The anthropomorphic pendant-amulets of the Neolithic era are of a very different shape than the present bead-seal and their use as seals is not accepted by all researchers. The character, proportions and cut of the anthropomorphic representations from the Hassuna-Samarra period differ greatly from that of the human figures on the present bead-seal. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: No. 53. Furthermore, the continuation of this "sling" shape in similar stones or even in harder stones in Hissar, the affinity in shape between the present bead-seal and lentoid pearls, its decoration's layout which are typical of later Ubaid glyptic and the occurrence of thread-like linear human figures in the later Ubaid and Gawra/early Uruk periods, all point to a later Chalcolithic date for this unusual piece.



"Base"



As tool(?)



As amulet-seal(?)

469

**Object:** black basalt, 39x8x53.5mm. Sub-rectangular tabloid narrowing toward "base," (shape close to flat trapezoid) with flat, polished back sides with angular corners and flat, cut, elongated rectangular top with angular corners and sharp angular cut toward thinner "base"; thin, elongated sub-rectangular "base" with rounded corners. Two small perforating holes (3mm. each) near "base" in center of sharply cut back ends. Slightly broken on "base."

**Technique:** very deep cut with large rounded implement; perforations from both sides narrowing toward center.

**Description:** three deep, wide, linear cavities (5mm. wide; 4mm. deep) alternating with four triangular projections narrowing toward rounded top edges.

**Date/origin:** 6th-4th millennium, probably original date Aceramic Neolithic period, retouched in Ceramic Neolithic era or later, Syria (or North Iraq).

**Discussion/comparanda:** the identity of the object as a seal is doubtful. Its original function was probably that of a working tool such as a grader or a scraper with the narrower, sharply cut side as base. At a later date it was altered to a large amulet-seal(?). Then its back sides were re-cut(?) to angular side contours and the original angular working base deeply cut with simple linear design for impression(?). In their deep cut and simple style and motif the cavities of the "base", which depict a parallel linear design when impressed, find their nearest parallels in Ceramic Neolithic glyptic. The closest parallels to the perforation technique of both perforations on this piece are found in the Aceramic Neolithic period. Although seals with straight, angular contour backs do not occur in these very early periods the working tools dating from the later Neolithic phases and from later eras, were capable and fit to cut angular back contours. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 4 (large pyramidal-conoidal seal, similar perforation technique, Tell Bouqras, Aceramic Neolithic period) 5 (large pendant with similar straight angle short side profile and similar small handle perforation, Tell Bouqras, Aceramic Neolithic period), 20 (similar deep cut linear base design, Tell Judeideh, Amuq A, Ceramic Neolithic period). The two small perforations near the original, narrow working "base" side of this piece were either added when the tool was altered and the

base cut for impression(?) or before. Perforations made on close bodied seals and pendants are usually placed near the top and not as in this example near the cut base. Cf. Braudwood/Braudwood 1960: fig. 100:15 (stone pendant, similar shape but with very rounded back corners, two perforations near top, Amu's First Mixed Range); Schmidt 1937: No. H3191 (long, narrow stone celt with angular back corners, similar shape, one perforation near sharp narrow top, Hissar II).



410

**Object:** shining black serpentine, 36x27x9.5mm. Tabloid with rounded corners, rectangular back and base with rounded corners. Perforation (5mm.) on short axis through base and back near top in amulet fashion, parallel to design on Side A and in opposite direction to design on Side B. Chipped on side C.

**Technique:** side A (base): broad, shallow drill cut in negative; side C (back) and sides B, D: fine linear cut with medium size and thin drilles with pointed ends, wider linear cut with broader drills and small drilled dots with thin drill in positive or negative; perforation from both sides narrowing to smaller hole in center, drilled with round (rotating or tubular?) drill with pointed end.

**Description:** side A (wide, base): rider on horse, ass or camel facing right, holding reins in one hand and long raised sword or stick in other hand with tall beam or tree in front. Side B (narrow): curved linear, angular linear and encircled drilled dot representing horned head, bird and other motifs or pseudo pictographic writing. Side C (wide, back): undeciphered motifs (possible reading in positive: goat to right with head turned back, two legs, in left corner below perforation hole; wild ass facing left, three legs, next to goat; human figure behind it in right corner, running or walking to right with hands lowered holding in left hand long stick or lance; horned animal head above human figure. Large schematized reclining(?) gazelle or stag facing right, its back to said

animals, with serpent, scorpion(?) chevron and filling motifs below. (Or second human figure standing with lowered right hand, raised left hand holding bow and arrow [first human figure] and large unidentified motif [dragon?] near his left leg). Side D (narrow): serpent, antelope and half circle above chevron or pseudo pictographic writing.

**Date/origin:** middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium, Uruk period(?) (tabloid and side C), North Syria, South-East Anatolia(?); 3rd-1st millennium (sides A,B,D), or Modern.

**Discussion/comparanda:** problematic stone. If genuine, it is a product of two "hands" and two different periods. Side C is perhaps a late prehistoric northern production (Syria? South-West Anatolia?). Its linear engraving style, as well as its unclear semi-circular composition seems genuine and close to the more linear, thread-line technique typical especially of Northern later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" periods glyptic. For most of the individual motifs on this side of the present tabloid (if the reading is correct) can be found parallels. For example, the small linear reclining goat with the head turned in the corner of side C is almost identical to the goat engraved on a small tabloid from Tell Brak. Cf. Homes-Fredericq 1970: fig. 376 (later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period). The motif of a human rider found on side A of this tabloid is unknown on prehistoric stamp seals and its style is not prehistoric. Its strange style questions also its authenticity from later historic periods.

183



(photographed with white powder)

411

**Object:** mottled dark grey serpentine, 57.5x34x7mm. Tabloid, flat back slightly truncated on one end as if re-cut of working tool, other contours sharp and angular with angular corners; rectangular base with angular corners. Not perforated.

**Technique:** many small, fairly deep and shallower sharp straight lines, some ending in drilled dots or widening and linear, angular cut with angular medium drill with pointed edge; few smaller lines cut with thin drill and drilled dots or ovals cut with round drill with round or triangular end. Design retouched recently when cleaned.

**Description:** pictographic writing with some unidentified motifs? Or, serpent in top right corner with schematic human figure to its side and another similar human figure below to side; architectonic motif in lower right corner with another human figure(?) in front and many linear motifs in center; animal in top left corner and another animal(?) diagonal to it and below it with another human figure(?) next to it; many unidentified linear motifs or small drilled dots each with pointed end line - similar to sub-cuneiform signs.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-3rd millennium or later, early Bronze Age(?) or later, Iraq (or Syria?).

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape probably re-cut from an earlier working tool. The very angular, flat shape of this tabloid suggests a date not earlier than the Uruk period. The condensed, unorganized layout of the motifs has no parallel on excavated tabloids or later cylinder seals. The engraving technique has some similarities with the later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period line and gouging technique. However, it recalls even closer the more orderly early pictographic cuneiform writing or early cuneiform writing found on cylinder seals.



472

**Object:** white-cream with brown-red veins soft stone (gypsum, sandstone or other), 30x30x29.5mm. Large, thick sub-loop handle off center of high square back with one side of handle slightly sloping; square base with rounded and angular corners. Comparatively small handle perforation (3x4mm.) off center. Perforation probably retouched recently. Chipped on side of handle above one perforation hole.

**Technique:** fairly shallow cut with wide, blunt drill and linear cut with medium size drill with pointed edge.

**Description:** bull standing to right on groundline. Raised tail, dot eye, diagonal foreleg, three straight legs of various thicknesses. Six-rayed rosette-like star or sun above animal's tail with small filling motifs on either side (moon crescent?).

**Date/origin:** 3rd millennium. Of uncertain affinity.

**Discussion/comparanda:** in its shape the present seal is close to two groups of Ceramic Neolithic seals: 1. the Amuq A (or later) irregular squarish based seals with lug handle placed on one side of back; 2. the Hassuna-Samarra square based handled seals with an irregular wide loop-handle in center of back. Cf. Von Wickede 1990: Nos. 40 (Tell Sukas), 47 (Yarimtepe I). Cf. also WFC No. 25. Handled seals with square base with a different handle and much thinner base than the present piece occur also during the Halaf period. After these eras the square base handled seal disappears from the prehistoric repertoire of seal shapes. The motif of a bull with raised tail standing on a base line has no parallel on Neolithic seals nor on Halaf and Ubaid periods seals. The earliest appearance of cows and bulls in the glyptic repertoire of the Near East is in the later Ubaid period. The star-like filling motif cut on the present seal is identical in shape and engraving technique to the same motif found on later Ubaid impressions from Degirmentepe. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 335, 336. However, in that period caprids and cattle are usually represented without a tail or with a very short one. Caprids (or cattle) with raised tail occur mainly during the Uruk periods. Cf. ibid.: Nos. 414 (impression, straight tail, Arpatchiyah, Gawra period), 437 (impression, Tell Brak). However cf. also the later Ubaid period depiction of a caprid with long, curved, raised tail from Degirmentepe in ibid.: No. 545 (pearl, long body, four legs, filling motifs, different engraving technique). In its square base shape, white colour and bull design the present piece is affiliated to Indus Valley 3rd millennium seals depicting large standing bulls. However, this seal lacks many features typical of Hindu Valley seals: it has no backed coat, no boss handle, no hieroglyphics, and no delicate secondary engraving on the bull's body. Cf. Buchanan/Moorey 1984: No. 232-5. In its shallow, broad engraving style the present bull is somewhat similar to the feline animal (panther, lion?) engraved on a large low gable seal with oval base. Cf. Keel-Leu 1991: No. 32 (technique more angular and sharp cut than present seal's cut technique, North Syria, South West Anatolia, Amuq F horizon). The ground line on the present seal may indicate a later date, and a Syrian, Palestinian origin.



473

**Object:** orange-pink burned clay, 25x25x29mm. Conoid with round base. No perforation.

**Technique:** fairly deep, short, thick linear cut narrowing at edge with broad, rounded implement.

**Description:** unidentified circular design, condensed short spokes in center (schematized human figure facing right in center?) surrounded by triangular spokes (and two-legged animal?).

**Date/origin:** Modern forgery.

**Discussion/comparanda:** shape imitating a variety of similar conoid-conoidal shapes occurring in various degrees of popularity from the 4th millennium to the 1st millennium. The base design tries to imitate one of the more common layouts, engraving technique and similar motifs current during the later 4th-early 3rd millennium in the later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period. The original-genuine style is found mainly at Susa and South Mesopotamia. For an affiliated authentic design cf. Von Wicked 1990: No. 589 (Uruk, later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period).



474

**Object:** dark red-brown, black limestone, 18x11.5x25mm. "Pebble" in shape of irregular trapezoid seal-pendant narrowing toward base, with rounded and angular back contours and irregular, cut and curved top with rounded corners; sub-ovoid base with angular and rounded corners. Very large perforation area (one side: 15x16mm.; other side: 9x10mm.) with smaller perforated hole (4x5mm.) in its center, on short axis. Perforation connected to smaller elongated depression (2x2mm.) drilled within perforation area, on both sides, but not carried through.

**Technique:** linear cut with medium size broad drill and thinner drill with blunt and pointed ends; shallow and deep drilled depressions with round drills.

**Description:** side A (wide): large drilled hole within shallower drilled circle, large depression (6x5mm; depth: 4mm.) below on left and irregular linear design: cross, line, short diagonal strokes, drilled dot (3mm.; depth: 1.5mm.) crossed by line. Side B (narrow): divider line crossed by short vertical line forming cross, by diagonal lines forming diagonal cross and chevron. Side C (wide): two curved lines forming large chevron below perforation. Side D (narrow): two parallel lines irregularly crossed by short vertical line and three short diagonal lines in

opposite directions. Base: irregular linear design with two drilled dots. Field divided into three zones: line with strokes off it; two drilled dots side by side; two lines with diagonal lines and strokes.

**Date/origin:** later 4th-2nd millennium, Bronze Age (later Uruk/"Jamdet Nasr" period or later) or early Iron Age (or Modern forgery).

**Discussion/comparanda:** problematic piece. Dating uncertain. Motifs have affinity with Halaf period linear designs engraved more regularly and with thinner cuts found on smaller and differently shaped pendant-seals. However, due to its shape, size and engraving style this piece does not seem so early. An undecorated pendant of similar shape and type of hole was found in the Amuq by Braidwood and Braidwood. Cf. Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: fig.252:23 (Amuq G). In its irregular shape, material, motifs and location of decoration on more than one side this piece is close to a 2nd millennium B.C. irregular, perforated pyramidal seal from Palestine. Cf. Keel-Leu 1990: 387, No. 100 (less regular linear designs combined with drilled dots, Ebâl, ca. 1250-1220). The engraving style and motif of this piece also have some affinity with Neo Imperial stamp seals of very different shapes. If, genuine, this piece could have been made during the later 4th-early 3rd millennium and decorated later, or and more likely, it is a product of the later 2nd millennium.

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## Indices

# Index I

## Breakdown of WFC Prehistoric Seals and Pendants according to Materials

Serpentine. Altogether: 306 stones. (similar material to the incorrect term: steatite. The chemical and stratified differentiation of these two soft materials is irrelevant to the archaeological terminology of stamp seals. (Both are opaque to semi-translucent basic magnesium silicate). The term steatite is occasionally used by scholars. For accuracy's sake all the relevant seals in the WFC were especially examined by Dr. Amnon Rosenfeld and Dr. Shimon Ilani of the Geological Survey of Israel by microscope and the dissolving test, and a few examples were also scrutinized by a team of scholars from the Geological Department of the Hebrew University. All specimens are identical or represent statistically inconsequential differences in their chemical build up and hardness and all belong to the same type of stone and mineralogical group. These inconsequential differences and especially the various hues and colours among these mostly dark stones, are probably due to the different geographical origins of the stones, as well as to changes in taste, the different magical-religious properties invested in the colours by each culture and area and may also result from trade relations. Thus, all the relevant pieces in the WFC are termed in the present Catalogue and Index: "Serpentine" – the more accurate geological and archaeological term for them).

- 1 - mottled grey (later 7th-early 6th millennium).
- 2 - dark grey (first half of 6th millennium).
- 6 - black-greenish (first half of 6th millennium).
- 10 - dark brown-black (first half of 6th millennium).
- 11 - grey-black (first half of 6th millennium).
- 12 - dark brown, black (6th millennium).
- 13 - black-dark grey (first half of 6th millennium).
- 14 - dark green-black (first half of 6th millennium).
- 15 - black-dark grey (6th millennium).
- 16 - greenish-grey (6th millennium).
- 17 - black-grey (first half of 6th millennium).
- 18 - dark blue shining (6th millennium).
- 19 - blue-grey (6th millennium).
- 20 - black-blue (second half of 6th millennium).
- 22 - dark grey-black (6th millennium [or first half of 5th millennium]).
- 24 - dark green (6th millennium).
- 26 - mottled green-black (6th-middle of 5th millennium).
- 27 - black (first half of 6th millennium).
- 28 - brown, cream, black (first half of 6th millennium).
- 30 - grey-greenish (6th-first half of 5th millennium).
- 31 - red-brown, yellowish (6th millennium).
- 32 - olive green with cream veins (middle or second half of 6th millennium [or early 5th millennium]).
- 35 - black (second half of 6th millennium).
- 36 - black (second half of 6th millennium).
- 38 - black-greenish (second half of 6th millennium).
- 39 - pink-cream with dark grey veins (6th-early 5th millennium).
- 40 - black-dark brown (second half of 6th millennium).
- 41 - dark brown reddish (second half of 6th millennium).
- 42 - dark and lighter green (6th millennium [or early 5th millennium]).
- 43 - black (later 6th-first half of 5th millennium).
- 44 - black-greenish (later 6th-first half of 5th millennium).
- 46 - dark grey-green (later 6th-first half of 5th millennium).
- 47 - black-dark grey (second half of 6th millennium).
- 50 - brown-black (second half of 6th millennium [or first half of 5th millennium]).
- 52 - dark grey-green (second half of 6th millennium).
- 53 - black-brown (second half of 6th millennium).
- 54 - grey (middle to late 6th millennium).
- 55 - dark green-black (second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium).
- 56 - dark green (second half of 6th millennium).
- 57 - dark grey-black (second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium).
- 58 - dark green (second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium).
- 59 - black-greenish (first half of 5th millennium).
- 61 - black-brown (second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium).

- 62 - black (second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium).  
65 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
67 - grey-yellowish (first half of 5th millennium).  
68 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
69 - black (5th millennium).  
72 - lightly mottled grey-green (first half of 5th millennium).  
74 - black, slightly green (first half of 5th millennium).  
77 - black-brown (first half of 5th millennium).  
78 - shining black (first half of 5th millennium).  
79 - black-green (first half of 5th millennium).  
80 - black (5th millennium).  
81 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
82 - dark grey-brown with patina( ) (first half of 5th millennium).  
83 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
84 - black-brown (first half of 5th millennium).  
87 - shining black (first half of 5th millennium).  
88 - black or blue (5th millennium).  
90 - black with grey patina (first half of 5th millennium).  
91 - opaque black-brown with red veins (first half of 5th millennium).  
96 - dark grey (5th millennium).  
100 - cream-light grey (5th millennium).  
102 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
103 - dark grey-greenish (first half of 5th millennium).  
104 - dark grey (6th-first half of 5th millennium).  
106 - brown (first half of 5th millennium).  
107 - light mottled grey (5th millennium).  
109 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
110 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
111 - lightly mottled grey (first half of 5th millennium).  
112 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
115 - black- brown (first half of 5th millennium).  
116 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
117 - grey-green (5th millennium).  
118 - black (middle of 5th millennium).  
119 - shining black (5th millennium).  
121 - dark grey-blue, black (5th-early 3rd millennium).  
123 - dark grey (second half of 5th-early 4th millennium).  
124 - grey-greenish (5th millennium).  
125 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
126 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
127 - black-grey (first half of 5th millennium).  
131 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
133 - black with cream-light brown patina (first half of 5th millennium).  
134 - dark grey, black-green (first half of 5th millennium).  
135 - black (middle or second half of 5th millennium).  
136 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
137 - black (5th millennium).  
138 - black (5th millennium).  
139 - mottled black-green (5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
140 - black-grey (5th millennium).  
142 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
144 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
145 - black-green and black (first half of 5th millennium).  
146 - black slightly mottled (first half of 5th millennium).  
148 - black-green (5th millennium).  
149 - black with some brown patina (5th millennium).  
150 - grey-black (first half of 5th millennium).  
153 - grey-brown (second half of 5th millennium [or first half of 4th millennium]).  
154 - black (first half of 5th millennium).  
155 - dark grey-green with encrustation (first half of 5th millennium).  
156 - greenish, black (first half of 5th millennium).  
157 - black-greenish (5th millennium).  
158 - black (5th millennium).  
159 - mottled grey-greenish (5th millennium).  
160 - mottled black (5th millennium).  
161 - dark grey (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
162 - shining black with brown patina on back (second half of 5th millennium [or second half or middle of 4th millennium]).  
163 - black (second half of 5th millennium).  
164 - black (5th millennium).  
165 - black with some brown patina (5th millennium).  
167 - black (5th millennium).  
168 - dark grey-black (5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
169 - grey-black (first half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
170 - black (5th millennium).  
171 - dark grey-green (5th millennium).  
172 - black-dark brown (5th millennium).  
173 - green (5th millennium).  
174 - black (5th millennium).  
176 - mottled black (5th millennium).  
177 - dark grey, cream-brown (5th millennium).  
178 - black (5th millennium).  
179 - black (5th millennium).  
180 - black (5th millennium).  
181 - dark grey-green (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
182 - black-dark grey (5th millennium).  
184 - dark brown (5th millennium).  
185 - black-dark brown (5th millennium).

- 188 - black-green (first half of 5th millennium).  
190 - dark grey-black (middle or second half of 5th millennium).  
191 - black (5th millennium).  
195 - light and dark green (5th millennium).  
196 - black with green spot ([5th millennium] or second half of 4th millennium).  
199 - black ([5th millennium] or second half of 4th millennium).  
201 - black-green (5th millennium).  
203 - shining black with brown patina (second half of 5th first half of 4th millennium).  
204 - black-red (second half of 5th-middle of 4th millennium).  
205 - black (second half of 5th-middle of 4th millennium).  
206 - shining black (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
207 - shining black (second half of 5th-early 4th millennium).  
208 - opaque red (second half of 5th-early 4th millennium).  
209 - opaque red (second half of 5th-early 4th millennium).  
210 - cream-yellowish, grey-brown, dark grey (second half of 5th-early 4th millennium).  
211 - shining black (late 5th-early 4th millennium).  
212 - shining black-green (second half of 5th millennium).  
213 - black (second half of 5th-early 4th millennium).  
220 - dark grey-brownish-greenish (second half of 5th early 4th millennium).  
222 - black or very dark brown (first half of 4th millennium).  
223 - black-dark grey (first half to middle of 4th millennium).  
224 - black-dark grey (first half to middle of 4th millennium).  
225 - greenish-grey (first half of 4th millennium).  
226 - black-dark grey (middle or second half of 5th millennium).  
227 - dark blue (second half of 5th millennium [or early 4th millennium]).  
228 - dark green (middle or second half of 5th millennium).  
231 - pink, red, grey, black with cream veins and patina (second half of 5th millennium).  
232 - black (second half of 5th millennium).  
235 - mottled black (first half of 4th millennium).  
236 - dark grey, brownish-greenish (later 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
237 - blue (first half of 4th millennium).  
238 - black-dark brown (first half of 4th millennium).  
239 - red, black (first half of 4th millennium).  
240 - red, dark brown-black (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
241 - dark grey-green (4th-early 3rd millennium).  
242 - dark grey-black (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
243 - dark grey-black (late 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
247 - green serpentine or deorite with white veins (first half of 4th millennium).  
248 - grey-green (second half of 4th millennium).  
249 - black (end of 5th-beginning of 4th millennium).  
250 - dark grey-black (first half of 4th millennium).  
251 - dark blue, grey-black (middle of 4th millennium).  
253 - mottled grey (4th millennium).  
256 - black (first half of 4th millennium).  
258 - black-grey (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
260 - black-blueish-grey (end of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
261 - black (end of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
262 - black (second half of 5th millennium).  
264 - black with white and brown patina (first half of 4th millennium).  
271 - black (second half of 5th-early 3rd millennium).  
273 - black-dark brown (first half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
274 - black (first half of 4th millennium).  
275 - black (first half of 4th millennium).  
276 - reddish-purple with grey patina (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
277 - shining black (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
278 - shining black (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
279 - grey-black (first half of 4th millennium).  
280 - dark grey (first half of 4th millennium or slightly later).  
282 - black (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
283 - mottled dark grey with white patina (later 5th-4th millennium).  
284 - black-brown (later 5th-4th millennium).  
285 - dark brown-red (4th millennium).  
286 - dark grey (4th millennium).  
287 - black (later 5th-4th millennium).  
288 - black-blueish (4th millennium).  
289 - blue-black (4th millennium).  
292 - reddish-purple (4th millennium).  
293 - black (4th millennium).  
294 - dark grey, black (4th millennium).  
295 - dark red (4th millennium).

- 296 - mottled grey-green (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
297 - dark grey (4th millennium).  
300 - dark green-grey (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
301 - dark and lighter grey (first half of 4th millennium).>  
302 - grey (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
303 - black with red spots (end of 5th-early 4th millennium).  
304 - black-dark grey (first half of 4th millennium).  
305 - black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
306 - black (middle of 4th millennium).  
310 - black, grey (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
311 - greenish grey (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium [or later]).  
312 - black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
313 - black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
314 - dark grey-green (middle or second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
315 - black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
316 - black-dark grey-greenish (5th millennium or first half of 4th millennium).  
317 - mottled black-grey (5th millennium).  
319 - black (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
320 - mottled black (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
322 - red (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
323 - black (second half of 5th-first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
328 - mottled black (4th-early 3rd millennium).  
329 - black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
331 - dark grey-green (4th millennium [or 3rd millennium]).  
333 - red (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
336 - dark green-black (first half of 4th millennium).  
340 - shining black (first half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
341 - shining black (middle of 4th millennium).  
342 - shining black with cream patina (middle of 4th millennium).  
343 - shining black (middle of 4th millennium).  
344 - shining black (middle of 4th millennium).  
345 - shining black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
346 - dark red to black (first half of 4th millennium).  
347 - black-blueish (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
348 - shining black (middle of 4th millennium).  
349 - black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
350 - red-brown (first half [or middle] of 4th millennium).  
353 - shining black (second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
355 - dark green (middle of 4th millennium).  
356 - dark grey (middle of 4th millennium).  
357 - black-green (middle of 4th millennium).  
358 - black (end of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
359 - black (end of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
360 - black (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
362 - cream, brown serpentine or volcanic stone (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
363 - dark brown-black (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
364 - olive green (middle of 4th millennium).  
366 - black-grey (end of 4th-3rd millennium).  
367 - black (end of 4th-3rd millennium [or later]).  
368 - dark red-purple (second half of 5th-middle of 4th millennium).  
369 - dark red (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
372 - red-brown (first half or middle of 4th millennium [or 2nd millennium]).  
374 - dark red-brown, black ([second half of 5th millennium] or middle or late 4th millennium).  
380 - black-dark grey (middle of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium).  
381 - dark red (middle or second half of 4th millennium, or first half of 3rd millennium).  
384 - black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
386 - red-brown (middle of 4th millennium).  
387 - shining black (middle of 4th millennium [or slightly earlier]).  
388 - dark grey-green (middle of 4th millennium).  
389 - red-brown (middle of 4th millennium).  
390 - dark brown (middle of 4th millennium).  
391 - dark brown (middle of 4th millennium).  
392 - black (middle of 4th millennium).  
393 - dark red (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
394 - dark brown-black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
395 - black-green (middle of 4th millennium).  
396 - blackish-greenish (middle of 4th millennium).  
397 - black (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
398 - dark grey (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
399 - black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
401 - dark grey (middle of 4th millennium).  
402 - black (middle of 4th millennium).  
403 - dark purple-red (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
404 - black-brown (first half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
405 - dark grey (middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
406 - shining black (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
408 - grey-green (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
410 - grey (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).

- 411 - grey, cream-brown (middle of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium).  
 416 - black (middle of 4th millennium).  
 418 - shining black (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
 419 - grey-green (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
 420 - black (4th-first half of 3rd millennium).  
 421 - dark grey-black (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
 422 - grey-blueish (middle or second half of 4th-3rd millennium).  
 423 - dark grey-cream (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
 432 - green (later 4th-3rd millennium).  
 433 - green-grey (later 4th-3rd millennium).  
 434 - mottled greenish-grey, cream (later 4th-3rd millennium).  
 435 - dark brown (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
 437 - olive green (middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
 438 - black-grey (middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
 443 - black (later 4th-2nd millennium, reworked in 9th-7th century B.C.).  
 445 - dark grey (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
 446 - dark grey-black (second half of 5th-middle of 4th millennium).  
 447 - black-brown, greenish with light brown-cream patina (second half or middle of 4th millennium).  
 451 - olive green (later 4th-3rd millennium).  
 452 - black (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
 453 - shining grey of various shades from blueish to dark, serpentine(?) (second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
 454 - dark grey-black (middle of 4th millennium).  
 455 - light green to black (4th-early 3rd millennium).  
 456 - grey-cream (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
 470 - shining black (middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium [or Modern]).  
 471 - mottled dark grey (later 4th-3rd millennium or later).  
 29 - light grey, whitish, cream (second half of 6th millennium).  
 45 - pink-red (later half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium).  
 48 - light grey-cream (second half of 6th millennium).  
 49 - white, pink, red, grey marble (second half of 6th millennium).  
 51 - orange, pink, cream marble (second half of 6th-5th millennium).  
 60 - pinkish with light brown veins (later 6th-first half of 5th millennium).  
 63 - white, dark grey (second half of 6th-first half of 5th millennium).  
 64 - dark grey marble (first half of 5th millennium).  
 66 - opaque white with light brown, cream veins (first half of 5th millennium).  
 70 - red brown marble with white veins (5th millennium).  
 71 - cream-grey (first half of 5th millennium).  
 73 - light grey, cream (first half of 5th millennium).  
 75 - cream (first half of 5th millennium).  
 76 - light grey with black veins (first half of 5th millennium).  
 86 - red-brown (first half of 5th millennium).  
 92 - deep yellow-brown (first half of 5th millennium).  
 93 - grey (first half of 5th millennium).  
 97 - white (5th millennium).  
 101 - cream-white, red, pink-brown (second half of 5th millennium).  
 105 - orange-cream marble (second half of 5th millennium).  
 113 - white, grey, black marble (first half of 5th millennium).  
 122 - white, grey with black layer on top (from fire?) (early prehistoric or uncertain date [Halaf period?]).  
 128 - light brown, cream, brown (first half of 5th millennium).  
 129 - yellowish-cream marble (first half of 5th millennium).  
 130 - yellowish-cream marble (middle of 5th millennium).  
 132 - red-orange, cream (5th millennium).  
 141 - cream, yellow (first half of 5th millennium).  
 143 - white, cream, grey-brown marble (first half of 5th millennium).  
 147 - cream, whitish marble (5th millennium).  
 151 - black-dark brown (first half of 5th millennium).

**Limestone and marble (when not indicated material is limestone).**

**Altogether: 106 stones.**

- 3 - white with patina (first half of 6th millennium).  
 5 - light to dark grey (later 7th-first half of 6th millennium).  
 7 - light and darker grey-cream (early 6th millennium).  
 8 - cream (first half of 6th millennium).  
 23 - brown-cream, yellowish (6th millennium [with later additions? 5th-4th millennium]).

- 152 - black-brown (second half of 5th millennium or second half of 4th millennium).
- 166 - white-cream (5th millennium).
- 183 - pink, light brown, cream marble (5th millennium).
- 189 - cream-orange-pink marble (first half of 5th millennium [or first half of 4th millennium]).
- 192 - white-cream (first half of 5th millennium).
- 193 - white with pores marble (first half of 5th millennium).
- 194 - pink, cream, yellowish marble (5th millennium).
- 197 - orange-cream marble ([first half of 5th millennium] or middle of 4th -first half of 3rd millennium).
- 198 - red-brown with shining white, cream patina (second half of 5th millennium [or second half of 4th millennium]).
- 200 - light grey, cream-light brown marble (first or middle of 5th millennium).
- 215 - pink, red-brown, cream, grey marble (second half of 5th millennium).
- 216 - white marble (second half of 5th-early 4th millennium).
- 217 - grey, cream (first half of 4th millennium).
- 218 - dark brown (later 5th-early 4th millennium).
- 221 - white marble (second half of 5th-middle of 4th millennium).
- 229 - grey, dark grey-black limestone or marble (second half of 5th millennium).
- 230 - opaque brown-red marble (second half of 5th millennium).
- 233 - cream, dark brown with brown veins (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).
- 234 - white, cream, brown, black marble (later 5th-first half of 4th millennium).
- 252 - light grey, cream (second half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 254 - white marble with opaque white and brown (first half [or middle] of 4th millennium).
- 257 - white, cream marble with red-pink veins (middle of 4th millennium).
- 265 - grey-brown with cream patina (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).
- 266 - dark green (first half of 4th millennium).
- 267 - shining black (first half of 4th millennium).
- 268 - shining black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 269 - dark brown, dark grey with brown patina (later 5th-first half of 4th millennium).
- 281 - grey, white marble of various shades (middle of 4th millennium).
- 290 - cream (4th millennium).
- 298 - cream-white covered with thick brown encrustation (first half of 4th millennium).
- 299 - dark grey-brownish (4th millennium [or early 3rd millennium]).
- 307 - white, pink, red-brown marble (middle of 4th millennium).
- 308 - light grey, cream, brown marble (first half of 4th millennium).
- 318 - buff (5th millennium).
- 324 - grey (first half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 325 - white opaque with crystals (first half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 330 - grey-cream dense with white and brown patina (first half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 332 - light brown-cream (4th millennium).
- 334 - white with brown patina (end of 4th-beginning of 3rd millennium).
- 337 - white opaque marble (first half [or middle] of 4th millennium).
- 338 - white opaque marble (first half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 339 - cream, light brown white opaque marble (first half of 4th millennium).
- 361 - cream (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).
- 370 - white with cream patina (first half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 376 - white-yellowish marble (first half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 378 - cream-grey limestone or chalk (first half of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium).
- 382 - white-cream on green-turquoise level (second half of 4th millennium [or beginning of 3rd millennium]).
- 383 - white marble with light brown patina (first half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 385 - light brown with marble few cream spots (middle of 4th millennium)
- 400 - opaque white-cream (middle or second half of 4th millennium).
- 407 - light grey (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).
- 409 - cream, dark grey marble (middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium).
- 412 - white, cream marble with grey-brown and dark grey veins (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).
- 413 - white with brown layer on side (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).
- 414 - orange, pink marble with cream patina (later 4th 3rd millennium).
- 415 - light brown, orange-brown (first half or middle of 4th millennium).
- 417 - white (second half of 4th-3rd millennium).
- 424 - white opaque marble (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).

425 - opaque white with red, light brown with veins marble (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
427 - dark brown (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
428 - opaque white-cream marble with light and dark red brown veins (end of 4th-3rd millennium).  
429 - white-cream with grey veins (end of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium).  
430 - white, brown (3rd millennium [or later]).  
436 - dark grey-blueish (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
442 - opaque white marble (later 3th-3rd millennium).  
448 - dark brown-black (middle or early second half of 4th millennium).  
469 - white-yellowish, light brown (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
474 - dark red-brown, black (later 4th-2nd millennium).

#### **Gypsum. Altogether: 3 pieces.**

108 - white with grey and black veins (second half of 5th millennium).  
440 - white-cream gypsum-alabaster with black spots from fire(?) (later 4th-3rd millennium [or Modern]).  
473 - white-cream with brown-red veins soft stone (gypsum, sandstone or other, 3rd millennium).

#### **Chalk. Altogether: 1 piece.**

219 - semi-translucent brown, light brown and black (from fire?) (later 5th-4th millennium).

#### **Flint. Altogether: 7 stones.**

4 - mottled green-grey (6th-first half of 5th millennium).  
34 - mottled black, cream (second half of 6th millennium).  
95 - black-brown (first half of 5th millennium).  
120 - black with white spots (later 6th-4th millennium).  
214 - opaque cream-white (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
244 - black-grey (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
354 - black with dark grey veins and white patina (second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).

#### **Hematite. Altogether: 3 stones.**

21 - black-dark brown (6th millennium).  
270 - shining silvery black (second half of 5th millennium [or middle of 4th millennium]).  
373 - dark red-purple (first half of 4th millennium).

#### **Diorite or gneisse. Altogether: 4 pieces.**

85 - grey, white diorite or gneisse (first half of 5th

millennium)..

255 - mottled dark grey-greenish diorite (second half of 4th millennium).  
450 - black and white mottled diorite (later 4th-3rd millennium).  
458 - dark and light green mottled diorite (later 4th-3rd millennium).

#### **Quartz: chalcedony and/or agate.**

**Altogether: 6 stones.** ( 6th stones belong to the same mineralogical group of quartz. Chalcedony appears mainly in milky blue, grey, green or white colors, agate - with different-colored wavy bands, which may be white, grey brown and black).  
89 - light blue, yellowish and brown veined chalcedony (agate?) (first half of 5th millennium).  
94 - dark grey, transparent smokey quartz (probably chalcedony) (first half of 5th millennium).  
246 - pink, white, grey veins agate (second half of 4th millennium).  
272 - dark to light brown, cream veins agate (second half of 5th-early 3rd millennium).

**Jasper. Altogether: 2 stones.** (Jasper stones are very close mineralogically to the quartz group. They differ from them in appearance, are opaque and usually red [or green, yellow, brown or black]).

377 - dark red (middle of 4th-3rd millennium).  
444 - red-brown opaque (first half or middle of 4th millennium).

#### **Cornelian. Altogether: 1 stone.**

431 - orange-yellow (middle or second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).

#### **Rock crystal. Altogether: 1 stone.**

449 - white transparent (later 4th-3rd millennium).

#### **Granite. Altogether: 1 stone.**

114 - black with white chlorite(?) (first half of 5th millennium [or slightly earlier]).

#### **Slate. Altogether: 2 stones.**

175 - black-green (first half of 5th-early 4th millennium).  
186 - grey-green (first half of 5th millennium).

**Volcanic stone. Altogether: 3 stones.**

- 187 - black (first half of 5th millennium or slightly later).  
259 - black (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
371 - white-light grey pumice with pores (first half or middle of 4th millennium).

(middle of 4th-early 3rd millennium).

467 - brown (later 5th millennium or first half of 4th millennium).

473 - orange-pink (Modern forgery).

**Basalt. Altogether: 1 stone.**

- 469 - black (6th-4th millennium).

**Unidentified beach rock. Altogether:****1 stone.**

- 263 - cream, light grey (second half of 5th millennium).

**Bone. Altogether: 5 pieces.**

- 321 - cream-yellowish (middle or second half of 5th-4th millennium).  
326 - yellowish-light brown (second half of 5th-early 3rd millennium).  
351 - brown fossilised (early second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
352 - brown fossilised (second half of 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
457 - cream, light brown (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).

**Burnt or baked clay. Altogether: 15 pieces.**

- 245 - cream (second half of 5th-first half of 4th millennium).  
309 - light cream, yellowish (first half of 4th millennium).  
335 - light brown-cream with grey from fire (second half of 4th-3rd millennium).  
365 - light brown-cream (second half of 4th-first half of 3rd millennium).  
379 - grey, light brown (middle of 4th-3rd millennium [or 2nd millennium]).  
459 - cream-pink with black from fire (later 4th-early 3rd millennium).  
460 - cream (later 5th-middle of 4th millennium).  
461 - pink-beige (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
462 - dark grey-brown (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
463 - cream-brown (first half or middle of 4th millennium).  
465 - cream (middle or second half of 4th millennium).  
466 - light brown, cream-yellowish unbaked clay

# Index II

## Motifs

### I. Geometric Motifs

#### A. Linear designs:

**Linear designs** (one line, parallel lines, central line crossed and irregular line designs with or without other linear motifs).

Nos. 2 (sides), 6 (handle), 8, 9, 16, 22, 26, 28, 30 (top, sides), 31, 32, 55, 61, 62, 65, 71-77, 83 (sides), 86-88, 91, 92 (side B) 95, 97 (sides, base), 100(?), 102 (back), 103, 106-108, 110-112, 114-119, 1123 (back), 135, 145, 182-186, 189 (sides: B,C,D), 190, 202, 214, 141 (back, side A), 252, 260 (side A), 266 (side A), 271 (side ), 298, 309, 310, 378, 404 (side B), 408 (sides: B,C), 416 (sides: A-C), 417 (side C), 419, 420 (side B), 439-442, 446, 452.

#### Ladder design

Nos. 140, 398(?).

#### Grid criss-cross design

Nos. 1, 2 (top, base), 3, 17, 21 (irregular), 25 (top, base), 27(irregular), 29 (top: irregular), 33, 34 (sides: A,C, base), 35,36, 38,48, 84 (sides: A,B: irregular), 85 (irregular), 99 )irregular with zoomorphic design), 118 (side A: irregular), 119 (irregular), 121, 127 (part of design), 139 (handle top), 150 (irregular), 151 (irregular), 176, 180, 187 (with five drilled dots), 192 (uncompleted), 198,214 (back, 225,227 (top), 272,273, 281 (irregular), 282 (irregular), 384 (irregular), 404 (side A), 443 (back, leg s top: irregular), 466.

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#### Criss-cross design with straight and diagonal lines

Nos. 29 (base),37 (irregular), 39 (irregular), 46 (irregular), 59, 186 (side A: irregular), 187 (irregular with "wheel" design), 235 (irregular within curved frame), 275 (back, narrow side).

#### Double criss-cross design

Nos. 94, 98 (in center), 124,126, 134 (irregular), 143 (irregular), 147 (half double criss-cross design), 212 (undeveloped).

#### Symmetrical linear design

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#### B. Cruciform designs:

#### Cruciform designs

Nos. 25 (irregular), 53 (irregular), 81, 84, 95, 107,119(side), 263 (semi cruciform design), 300 (semi-cross with central drilled hole), 465, 474 (sides: A, B).

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#### Line-filled cross

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#### Line-filled cross with central drilled dot

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#### Cross with "leaf" design in quadrants

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141 (with central drilled hole through base), 190(?), 261, 263, 367, 416.

#### **Cruciform designs within frame**

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#### **Angle-filled cross**

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### **C. "Leaf", chevron, zig-zag and triangle designs:**

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#### **Row of chevrons and chevron design**

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#### **Triangles and semi-triangle designs**

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### **D. Square, rhomboid, lozenge, diamond, circle, ovoid and "eye" designs:**

#### **Square or squares as part of design or as frame**

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#### **Rhomboid, lozenge or diamond design**

Nos. 12, 68, 78, 80, 105, 118, 155, 171, 201, 244, 435.

#### **Concentric circles**

No. 311.

#### **Ovoid design, circular or ovoid frame**

Nos. 199, 312-314, 370, 426.

#### **"Eye" design or "eight-shaped" design**

Nos. 171(?), 242, 244, 250, 308, 312(?), 313, 431(?), 467.

### **E. Hole, drilled dot or depression designs:**

#### **Drilled dots as only, or as main base design**

Nos. 316-335, 408-410, 411 (side B), 418 (sides: A-), 459.

#### **Dots, holes, or depressions as part of geometric design**

Nos. 26, 111, 117, 118 (side B, base), 121 (back), 123 (as "eyes"), 133, 155-161, 165, 166, 168, 169, 173, 174, 178, 188, 191, 192, 197, 199, 200, 209-211, 215, 216, 221, 226-228, 237-240, 269, 275, 276 (sides: A-D), 282 (back), 300-302, 304, 306, 307, 366, 375, 377, 378, 382, 435, 442, 463, 464, 469, 474.

### **F. "Star", "wheel" and radiating designs:**

#### **"Star", "wheel" and radiating design with central drilled dot or drilled hole through base**

Nos. 133, 164-169, 191, 199, 200, 211, 215, 216, 269, 279, 280.

#### **"Star", "wheel" and radiating designs**

Nos. 189, 218, 222, 240, 243, 303, 422, 472.

## II. Figurative Motifs

### A. Animals, insects, reptiles and birds:

#### **Caprides, cattle and unidentified quadrupeds**

Nos. 4, 51 (she-goat?), 98 (mouflon or wild ass), 99(?), 101(?), 139, 152 (goat or gazelle) 229 (goat or two headed animal), 230 (goat or stag), 232 (side B), 242 (side B: gazelle or ibex), 253 (goat or gazelle), 254 (two moufflons), 255 (stag with smaller human figure), 259 (two quadrupeds[?] with human figure), 266 (mouflon, fish, duck, horned head), 268 (goat or dog), 270 (sides: A,C), 276 (gazelle, goat[?], bull[?], stag, goat or stag's young, with human figure, horned head), 278 (gazelle or moufflon with human figure, turtle), 337 (mouflon), 338 (gazelle, ovals, horned head), 340 (two animals?), 341 (stag with foliage), 342 (stag), 343 (gazelle or goat with serpent or fish, horned head), 344 (gazelle), 347 (gazelle?), 349 (goat), 352 (mouflon with horned head; stag with coiled serpent), 370 (two gazelles, goat), 371 (goat, antelope?), 374 (goat or antelope), 375 (goat[?] with human figure?), 376 (antelope), 395 (antelope with snake or double headed beast), 397, 398, 399 (antelope), 400 (mouflon or ram), 401 (gazelle), 402 (two antelopes), 403 (two or three animals with scorpion or two birds), 407 (mouflon?), 411 (side B: quadrupeds with bird, horned head), 412 (gazelle with water bird), 416 (side D: goat), 423 (animal, horned head, fish?), 427 (two animals, bird, crustaceans), 429 (two gazelles or goats), 430 (goat or moufflon, smaller animal, serpent, scorpion or spray), 436 (animals? Human figure? architectural motif?), 444 (side A: two gazelles), 448 (stag), 456 (goat? animal, filling motifs), 457 (capride, filling motifs), 458 (calf or goat), 461 (goat? serpent? dog? linear motifs), 467 (side A: animal with human figure, snakes, filling motifs), 468 (animals with human figures, serpent, architectonic motifs?), 472 (bull, rosette-star).

#### **Horned head**

Nos. 266 (with moufflon, fish or duck), 276 (with human figure, five animals), 315 (bull heads[?] forming swastika), 336 (with gazelle), 343 (?), 352 (with two caprides), 355 (with bird), 356-359, 364, 381, 411 (side A: with four

quadrupeds, bird), 413 ([?] with bird heads, drilled dots), 423 (with animal, fish), 424 (with capride), 425 (with gazelle), 447 (with bud or bird?), 470 (side B: [?] with bird, filling motifs?).

#### **Wild ass or horse**

Nos. 98 (wild ass?), 232 (wild ass or horse), 338 (wild ass), 345 (wild ass[?] with scorpion, foliate bud), 371 (wild ass?), 454 (horse's head), 456 (wild ass?), 470 (side A: rider on horse, ass or camel; side C: wild ass with human figure, goat, animal, stag, serpent, scorpion[?]).

#### **Dog or wolf**

Nos. 345 (wind hound dog), 346 (dog or wolf), 347 (dog?), 351 (feline animal with dog?), 371 (dog or wild ass), 407 (dog?), 461 (dog[?] with goat, serpent[?], linear filling motifs).

#### **Feline animals**

Nos. 162 (leopard or wild cat), 369 (panther or lion), 351 (feline animal and dog?).

#### **Turtle or composite turtle-like human-demon**

Nos. 278 (with human figure, capride), 353, 354, 406.

#### **Monkey**

No. 396 (with bird).

#### **Serpent**

Nos. 163 ([?] with animal), 256 (two, each on side of human figure), 257 (two-headed, on side of human figure, with bird, star or flower, linear motifs), 277 (a pair), 314 ([?] in geometric design), 339 ([?] within frame), 343 ([?] with gazelle or goat, horned head), 352 (with two animals, horned head), 395 (with antelope?), 414 (?), 420, 430 (with capride, smaller animal, scorpion or spray), 461 ([?] with human figure, capride, filling motif), 467 (side A: two[?] with human figure, capride), 470 (side B:[?]; C: with scorpion[?], human figure[?], animals[?]).

#### **Fish**

Nos. 4 (?), 99 (?), 266 ([?] with moufflon, horned head), 343 ([?] with gazelle or goat, horned head), 420, 423 (with horned heads, bird heads).

#### **Shrimp**

No. 228 (?).

#### **Scorpion**

Nos. 252 (?), 253 ([?] with caprides, human figure[?]), 345 (with dog or wild ass, bud), 346 (?), 403 (with two birds, animals), 430 (?), 471 (side A, [?] with serpent, human figure and animals?).

### **Insect-like creatures**

Nos. 350 (crab or centipede), 427 (crustaceans with birds, animals).

### **Birds**

Nos. 51 (?), 55 (bird's head?), 100 (open winged bird?), 228 (?), 257 ([?] above human figure, two headed serpent), 266 (duck[?] with moufflon, horned head), 339 ([?] within frame), 355 (with horned head), 387 (in row?), 394 ([?] held in human figure's hand), 396 (with monkey), 403 (two, with scorpion, animals), 411 (side A: with four quadrupeds, horned head), 412 (water bird with gazelle), 413 (with horned head, drilled dots), 427 (with animals and/or crustaceans), 428 ([?] with fish[?], gazelle), 471 (side B: ?), 431 (two water birds?), 447 ([?] with horned head).

### **B. Human figure(s):**

#### **Human figure(s)**

Nos. 101 (?), 231, 252 (?), 253 ([?] with goat, gazelle, scorpion), 255 (with stag), 256 (with serpent on each side, "Lord of Snakes"), 257 (with two headed serpent, bird, star or flower, linear motifs), 258 (with two quadrupeds), 259 (cultic scene: three or four human figures), 276 (with five animals), 278 (with capride, turtle), 348 (copulation scene), 353 (human-demon?), 354 (human-demon?), 371 (two human figures with two animals), 372 (with gazelle), 375 ([?] with animal?), 393 ([?] with unidentified motif), 394, 406 (sub-human figure?), 414 (or idol with serpent or within shrine), 436 ([?] with animals, architectonic motif?), 444 (side C: with linear motifs), 467 (side A: with "eye" or "leaf" design, capride, two snakes[?], drilled dots; side B: with flowers, filling motifs), 468 (with animals, serpent, architectonic motifs?), 470 (side A: rider on horse, ass or camel with animals, serpent, scorpion[?]), 471 (with serpent, animals, architectural motif?).

#### **Human face mask**

Nos. 109, 451.

## **III. Other Motifs**

### **A. Floral motifs and foliage with or without other motifs:**

### **Shaped Stones**

Nos. 123, 130, 144, 158, 166-168, 199, 238, 246, 264 (side A), 267, 274 (side C), 304 (?), 305 (?), 314 (?), 341, 345, 346 (?), 387 (?), 388-391, 445, 447, 462, 463, 466, 468 (side: A,B).

D. Boats No. 398(?).

## **IV. Shaped Stones**

### **A. Anthropomorphic shaped stones**

#### **Foot or boot shaped**

Nos. 13, 14, 104, 105, 108 (?), 437-443.

#### **Hand shaped or claw shaped**

Nos. 103, 106, 108 (?).

#### **Female shaped or female-male shaped**

Nos. 110 (?), 111-114, 454.

#### **Human face or mask shaped**

Nos. 109, 451.

### **B. Zoomorphic shaped stones**

Nos. 103 (claw [bird's or large cat's]), 106 (animal's [calf's] hoof?), 107 (animal's [calf's] hoof), 110 (bird-like) 115 (cobra?), 116 (cocoon or vase), 117 (butterfly or fly), 123 (animal or cocoon), 187 (unidentified animal [or fish] head), 449 (fish or close-winged fly), 450 (fish), 451 (fish), 455 (frog), 456 (sheep or ram), 457 (capride or dog), 458 (bull or calf), 462 (handle: calf, bear or cat's head).

### **C. Floral shaped stones**

#### **Floral shaped stones**

Nos. 103 (three pealed "blossom"?), 122 (mytonomic vegetation?), 453 (pod).

## **V. Pseudo Pictographic Writing**

### **Pseudo pictographic writing**

Nos. 392 (back), 466, 470, 471.

## **VI. Latter or Modern Work**

### **Latter or Modern work**

Nos. 392 (base), 443 (base), 470 (side A), 471 (?), 473, 474 (?).

## Summary

The Wolfe Collection was assembled in order to give a wider perspective of stamp seals which, until recently, were the poor relative of glyptic research. Prehistoric glyptic is one of the most important media for the perception and the understanding of the material and the conceptual world of pre-alphabetic societies. The book seeks to contribute to this understanding by means of a thorough analysis of a previously unpublished large body of prehistoric stamp seals. These seals enlarge the known corpus of prehistoric stamp seals. The book surveys stamp seals from the earliest late Aceramic Neolithic to the early Bronze Age. The large majority of the seals originate from Syria, South-East Anatolia and North Mesopotamia. A smaller number of stones come from present-day Lebanon and Israel, while few specimens may have originated in Southern Mesopotamia and South-West Iran. The book analyses the various types of prehistoric stamp seals and the prototypes of cylinder seals. The criteria employed for the typological analysis are those of material, size, shape, cutting and engraving techniques, as well as composition and iconography. The terms used by Von Wickede for layout of the motifs are employed. As a result of the paucity of published material, there are many specimens that constitute a missing link between various areas and eras; stamp seals that broaden the iconographic corpus of prehistoric glyptic; and items that advance our understanding of the material and technical procedures in use.